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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Milestone for famous highway
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A spooky story full of mystery
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July 10/July 17, 2026
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

BONUS PAGES INSIDE!

MOANA MAKES WAVES

A live-action version of a favorite film hits the summer box office p20

FACT FILE
Venezuela has a population of about 30 million people and covers more than 353,841 square miles of land.

Rescue workers in Venezuela

How you can help

If you would like to help people in Venezuela, many nonprofits are accepting donations. GlobalGiving funds local groups delivering supplies. The UN Venezuela Humanitarian Fund provides healthcare, water, and other necessities. And UNICEF has workers in Venezuela helping children and families.

Major earthquakes strike Venezuela

On June 24, two massive earthquakes struck Venezuela, triggering widespread devastation across the northern part of the South American nation.

What happened?

The first earthquake struck just after 6 p.m. Eastern Time near San Felipe, a city of about 220,000 people that's west of the capital of Caracas. The quake registered at a magnitude (strength) of 7.2. On the magnitude scale, earthquakes between 7.0 and 7.9 are considered major and capable of causing serious damage. Less than a minute later, a second, more powerful quake struck, with a magnitude of 7.5, making it the strongest to hit the country since 1900. A third quake, with a magnitude of 4.8, struck off the coast on June 27, followed by more than 430 aftershocks (smaller earthquakes following a larger one).

What was the damage?

The earthquakes caused a wide swath of destruction, damaging nearly 60,000 buildings and destroying more than 850 of them. About 15,900 people have been affected, including many who were forced from their homes and are now living outdoors. The country is poor, and its public services—including electricity, water, airports, hospitals, and roads—were improperly managed and vulnerable to problems even before the earthquakes. Now those issues are adding to the challenges of rescue efforts. The quakes damaged 13 hospitals, which have been overwhelmed with injured patients, and rescue crews have struggled to travel on crowded, rough roads to reach hard-hit areas. Venezuela's main airport was closed due to serious damage, and subways and trains were shut down. Thousands of people lost power and water. When *The Week Junior* went to press on July 1, at least 1,943 people had died, more than 10,500 were injured, and tens of thousands were missing.

A map of the region

Why was the damage so extensive?

Scientists said the arrival of the second quake so soon after the first made the natural disasters rare and particularly damaging. And the second earthquake hit at a relatively shallow depth, closer to Earth's surface than some earthquakes, which made it unusually destructive because it caused the ground to shake more violently. A large number of people were affected because the earthquakes hit some of the country's most densely populated areas, in the states of Yaracuy, Carabobo, Aragua, and La Guaira. Many homes in those regions are made of weak building materials, like adobe (sun-dried mud bricks), that don't hold up well in earthquakes.

How are people being helped?

Venezuela sent hundreds of rescue workers to help find survivors in the rubble, but many people criticized the government's response as slow and poorly managed. Rather than waiting for rescue crews, many Venezuelans have been digging through the rubble to find survivors. More than 24 countries have also sent help, including nearly 3,000 rescue workers, medical professionals, search dogs, food and water, drones, and other equipment. These countries include Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, and the US. The European Union (a group of 27 nations) sent about $5.7 million in humanitarian aid, including tents, water, and other supplies. At least 243 people have been rescued, including dozens several days after the earthquakes struck. California, Florida, and Virginia also sent non-military search and rescue crews. Governments and humanitarian groups around the world are collecting clothes, medicine, food, and other basic supplies to deliver to people affected by the earthquakes.

What will happen next?

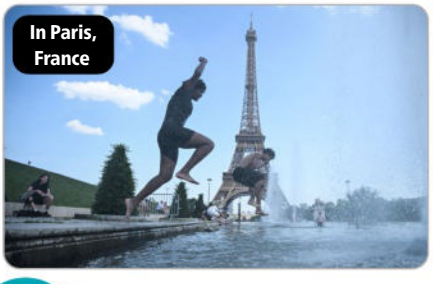
The search for survivors will continue. Crews will clear debris and begin rebuilding. UNICEF reported that 1.8 million people, including 680,000 children, will need humanitarian aid. The US has committed more than $300 million to support the relief effort.

Heat wave grips much of Europe

More than 150 million people across Europe have been facing record-setting heat waves since June 20. The UK, France, Spain, and other countries have endured temperatures up to 110° F, about 32° F above average, and recorded their highest temperatures ever. More than 1,300 people have died because of the heat.

Only about 20% of European households have air-conditioning, so people are using fans, covering their windows with chalk to block sunlight, and cooling off under trees. People in Paris, France, are swimming in rivers and canals, while police in Berlin, Germany, sprayed people down. Officials closed schools and canceled public events, and museums closed or reduced their hours.

Western Europe had some relief starting on June 28, but high temperatures headed toward Eastern European countries, including Ukraine and Romania. Scientists said that while the world is getting warmer, Europe is heating up twice as fast as other regions. Officials are calling for long-term plans to manage heat and fight climate change.


In Paris, France

DID YOU KNOW?
The ancient Olympic Games, held in Greece from 776 BCE to 393 CE, were named for Mount Olympus, where the Greek gods lived.

Team USA at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy

Olympic athletes will now be paid

For the first time in modern Olympic history, every athlete who competes in the Olympic Games will receive a payment from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Under a new program called the Fit for the Future Olympian Grant, each qualifying Olympian will receive $10,000.

Since the modern Olympics began in 1896, athletes have not received pay or prize money because officials believed they should compete for the love of their sport rather than financial rewards. In fact, the Games were open only to amateur athletes, who did not earn money from sports, until the IOC first allowed professional athletes in 1986. The grant follows years of pressure from advocacy groups and athletes who have argued that Olympians should receive a share of the billions of dollars brought in by the Games.

Each Olympic Games will have a $140 million fund, and every athlete who qualifies for them will receive a $10,000 payment, whether they win a medal or not. The first grants will be available to the 2,900 athletes who competed at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Games in February.

Pau Gasol, a former professional basketball star and a three-time Olympic medalist for Spain, is the head of the IOC Athletes' Commission and one of the leading voices in the effort to pay Olympic athletes. "This is not prize money," Gasol said. "This is about recognizing the journey and the commitment it takes to become an Olympian."

The fund does not apply to athletes who participate in the Paralympic Games, which are not overseen by the IOC.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

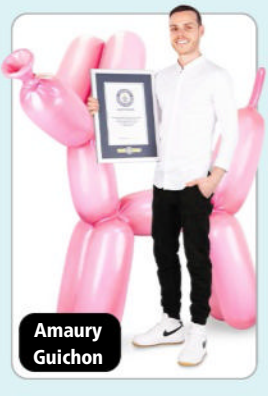
SETTING A RECORD

A parakeet named Spoodles is officially the world's oldest living parrot at age 32. The cheerful fellow greets each day with chirps of "Pretty bird!" and imitates the beep of the microwave. "He certainly has a cute little personality," said Amanda Beth, who has owned Spoodles since 1997.

Spoodles

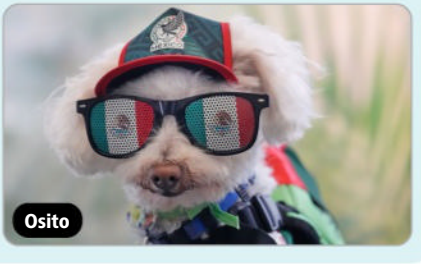
EDIBLE ART

Amaury Guichon has gone viral for creating realistic sculptures made entirely out of chocolate, from Minions and Pikachu to oversize balloon animals and a giant pencil. With 92 million followers on social media, he holds the record for the world's most-followed pastry chef.


Amaury Guichon

A FURRY FAN

As soccer fans stream into Mexico City Stadium for FIFA World Cup matches, many stop to pet and take selfies with Osito, an 8-year-old rescue dog who has become a viral sensation. Osito, whose name means "little bear" in Spanish, sports Team Mexico gear. "Everybody wants to meet him," said his owner.


Osito

ON THE COVER: DISNEY; GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY; COURTESY THE PUBLISHER; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS (2); AP; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

The nine justices of the current Supreme Court

TASTY TREAT

In 2011, Justice Elena Kagan successfully advocated to get the first frozen-yogurt machine installed in the Supreme Court cafeteria.

The court building

For the first 146 years of its existence, the Supreme Court worked out of rooms in the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. In 1929, Congress authorized money to construct a Supreme Court building. The building (above) was completed in 1935, and the court's justices continue to work from there today.

Supreme Court announces major decisions

At the end of June, the US Supreme Court (America's highest court of law) released a series of far-reaching decisions. The court is made up of nine judges (called justices) who listen to both sides of a legal case before issuing their final decision.

What was the birthright case?

In the case of *Trump v. Barbara*, the justices ruled 6–3 that an executive order from President Donald Trump, which declared that children born to people who are in the US illegally or temporarily are not US citizens, was unconstitutional. As part of the case, the justices voted 5–4 to uphold the Constitution's 14th Amendment, which grants citizenship to those born or naturalized in the US (find out more in the red box below). Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts said the decision keeps the "promise" of what the framers of the 14th Amendment intended. Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for the minority, said in his dissent that the President's order should have been upheld.

What happened with mail-in ballots?

The justices ruled 5–4 to uphold a Mississippi law that allows mail-in ballots received up to five days after Election Day to be counted. The Republican National Committee had argued that Mississippi should only count mail-in ballots received by Election Day. The decision means that 18 states and territories that have ballot-counting rules similar to Mississippi's can continue to follow them. Trump called the decision a "tremendous loss," while voting rights activists said it protects the voices of millions of Americans who vote by mail.

What else was decided?

The court voted to uphold laws in Idaho and West Virginia that ban transgender athletes from competing on girls' and women's school sports teams. It also decided in Trump's favor in two immigration cases. In one, the justices ruled to end protection from deportation (being forced out of a country) for people who migrated to the US from Haiti and Syria. The court also voted to expand a President's power to fire independent government regulators with one exception: Members of the Federal Reserve Board, which sets US financial policies, cannot be fired by the President.

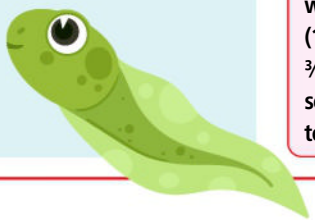
What will happen next?

When the Supreme Court makes a decision, it is final and all other courts in the US must follow it. The rulings go into effect immediately.

WORD OF THE WEEK

TADPOLE

The word "tadpole" is a mix of the Old English words "tade" (which means toad) and "poll," meaning head. It is based on the tadpole's appearance in the early stages of its development, when it looks like a large head with a small tail.

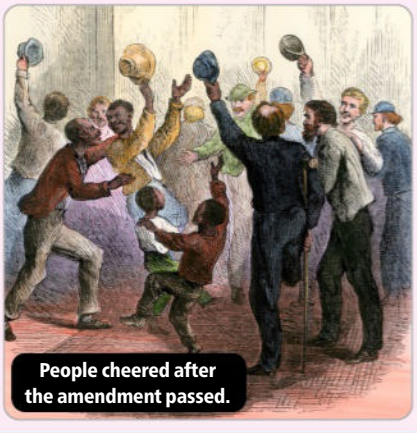


THE WEEK IN HISTORY

July 9, 1868

The 14th Amendment is ratified

On July 9, 1868, the 14th Amendment (change) to the US Constitution (nation's highest law) was approved. It granted citizenship to people born or naturalized in the US, including people who had been enslaved before the Civil War (1861–1865). Amendments require approval of ¾ of the states. The US had 37 states in 1868, so when South Carolina became the 28th state to approve the amendment, it was ratified.



People cheered after the amendment passed.

The Capitol Building

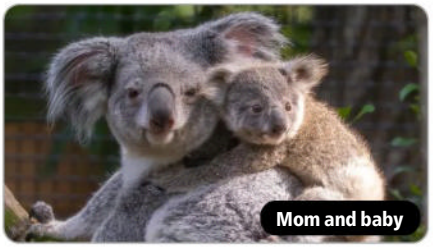
Congress votes for housing bill

Democrats and Republicans in Congress (branch of government that makes laws) passed the 21st Century Road to Housing Act—the largest housing affordability bill to be approved in decades. Its goals include increasing the supply of homes nationwide. President Donald Trump said he wouldn't sign the legislation until Congress passes another bill related to elections. When *The Week Junior* went to press on July 1, the housing bill's fate was unclear.

Grocery labels will change.

California regulates food labels

On July 1, California became the first state to enact a law that regulates the wording on food date labels. The aim is to reduce waste by eliminating confusion about whether a food is acceptable to eat. Wording like "sell by" will be banned. Instead, consumers will see only two dates: "Best if used by" to specify when an item is at its highest quality and "Use by" to indicate a food safety deadline.


Mom and baby

First koala born at Florida zoo

The Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society in Florida announced its first birth of a koala. The joey, a male who is not yet named, was born to mom Ellin and dad Sydney last fall. He has just started to become visible to zoo officials from his mother's pouch. Koalas are native to Australia and are endangered. The zoo has worked with Australia on conservation practices to protect the species.

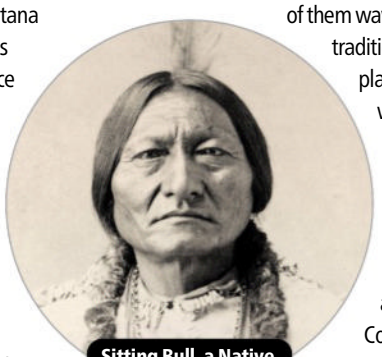
DEEP ROOTS
More than 7 million people in the US have Native American or Native Alaskan heritage.

Riders on horseback reenacting the historic battle

Tribes mark battle's anniversary

Hundreds of Native Americans who are descendants of 19 tribal nations gathered in Montana on June 25–27 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn. It was a major victory for Native Americans over US forces.

The historic battle took place on June 25 and 26, 1876, when US Army troops led by General George Custer attacked Native Americans near the Little Bighorn River in Montana Territory. The Native Americans were gathered there in defiance of the US government's efforts to confine them to a reservation (land the US had set aside for Native Americans). The US wanted Native Americans to move from their original land to make room for white settlers who wanted to mine the gold that had been discovered there.


Sitting Bull, a Native American leader

The Native Americans at Little Bighorn were led by Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull of the Lakota Sioux. Before the battle, both leaders encouraged other tribe members to resist, and by June 1876 as many as 10,000 Native Americans had joined them. Custer underestimated the resistance his troops would face. They were easily defeated, and Custer was also killed.

To celebrate the anniversary of the battle, Native Americans set up a camp at the site. Riders on horseback charged onto the same historic battlefield that their ancestors had. Many of them waved tribal flags and wore traditional Native dress. Children played lacrosse, a game that was invented by Native Americans. School groups and Native youth councils visited the camp to learn about the battle.

Christopher Eagle Bear, a Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council representative, told National Public Radio that the event gave him hope for the future. "The kids that are here today, they're going to come together during the 200th anniversary and they're going to talk about what they witnessed as kids," he said.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

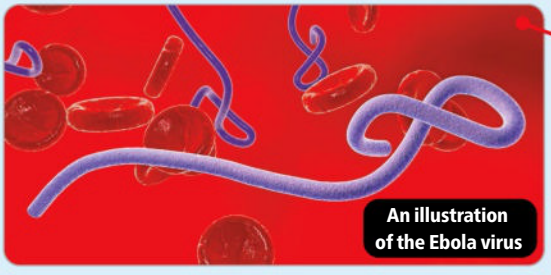
"Giraffe on the loose after Texas ranch escape" *UPI*

AP: GETTY IMAGES (4); JOHN TOWEY/PALM BEACH ZOO & CONSERVATION SOCIETY; ON LEFT PAGE: COLLECTION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES; GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY

Local trees will be protected.

Terrasse-Vaudreuil, Canada
Town gives trees legal rights

A Canadian town passed a resolution to respect trees as living beings with legal rights. Terrasse-Vaudreuil now recognizes trees' rights "to life, to natural growth, to integrity, and to regeneration." The town also signed on to the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Tree, which says that people should act in solidarity with trees. Laws will be updated to better protect trees, and residents will receive trees to plant.


An illustration of the Ebola virus

France
First case of virus detected

France has detected its first-ever confirmed case of Ebola, a serious disease. A doctor tested positive after returning from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where more than 1,000 cases have been reported. He was admitted to a special hospital and is in stable condition. This is the first case to be recorded outside Africa during the current outbreak. French officials say the risk of the disease spreading among the public is "very low."

Manuel Adorni (left) and Javier Milei

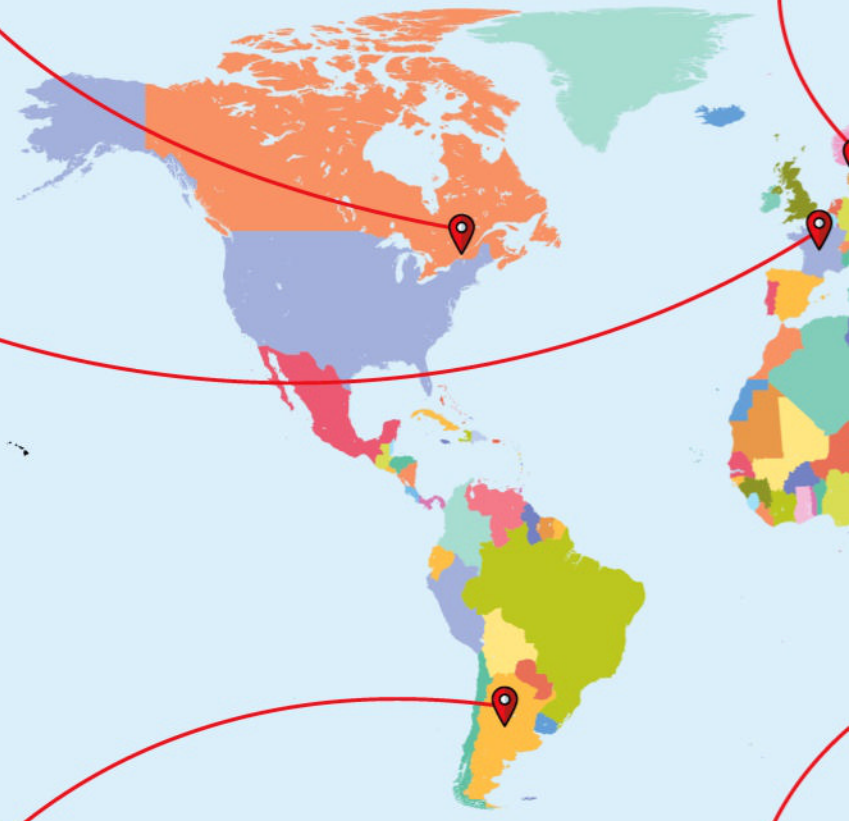
Argentina
Top official resigns

Manuel Adorni, a close adviser to President Javier Milei, resigned under accusations of corruption (using power for personal gain). Adorni was criticized for going on luxury vacations that seemed to cost more than he earned as a government official. He said he had saved up the money before starting the job but later admitted he'd failed to declare about $500,000 on his taxes.

Søften, Denmark
Viking textile site found

Experts have discovered a huge site where cloth was made during the Viking era. Built between the years 600 and 950, it includes the remains of a Viking house and about 80 workshops where wool and flax were woven into cloth. Coins and pottery were also found. Historians say the discovery will help them understand how Vikings lived.

A scientist at the site



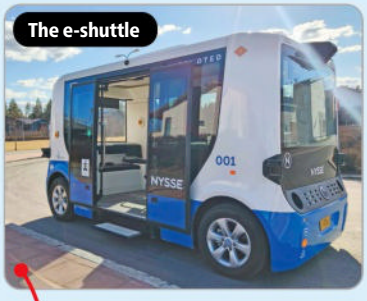
Johannesburg, South Africa
Prisoners' art on display

Artwork made by 34 prisoners is on display inside a Johannesburg prison. The program uses art sessions to encourage prisoners to reflect on their feelings, which can help them feel calmer and avoid committing crimes in the future. Each work in the gallery can be sold to the public for up to $120. The proceeds are used to buy new art supplies and provide payments and craft training to the inmates.

One of the artists

GETTY IMAGES (5); ALAMY (2); METACAZZE; SHUTTERSTOCK; MOESGAARD

Around the world



Tampere, Finland
Driverless bus service starts

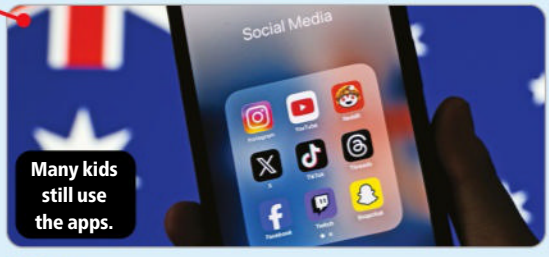
A self-driving electric bus has begun running on a route in the city of Tampere. The e-shuttle drives slowly and carries 12 passengers. After a successful test phase with a human driver, the bus will now be monitored from a control room as it uses sensors to track its surroundings. Officials said they want to add more buses to the service.

Taipei, Taiwan
Music awards are presented

On June 27, the 37th annual Golden Melody Awards took place at the Taipei Arena. The event honors the best singers, songs, and albums in languages such as Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, and Hakka. Its most prestigious award, Album of the Year, went to Taiwanese pop star Jolin Tsai, who also won Best Mandarin Female Singer. Singer-songwriter Chang Chen-yue also received several honors, and Chen Xianjing was named Best New Artist.

Bibiclat, Philippines
Mud festival celebrated

Hundreds of people in the village of Bibiclat covered themselves with mud for the Taong Putik (Mud People) religious festival. Devotees then wrapped dried banana leaves around their bodies and walked barefoot through the village to thank Saint John the Baptist for answering their prayers. Catholic Church leaders say the annual Christian tradition began in the 19th century and more people take part in it every year.



Australia
Updates to social media ban

The Australian government has proposed new laws that will double the maximum fines for technology companies that don't adhere to the nation's social media ban for children under age 16. Since the ban took effect last year, 5 million accounts have been removed or restricted, but research shows that more than 80% of kids under age 16 are still using social media.

South Sudan
Election date set

South Sudan announced plans to hold its first-ever general election in December. The current president, Salva Kiir, has led the country for 15 years but was never chosen by voters. An election was set for 2015 but was delayed due to a civil war (conflict between groups within a country). Some people are concerned that voting may be delayed again because of continued fighting and a lack of money for election preparations.

Has food gotten too spicy?

Some say the extra heat is a positive change, but others say it's over the top.

HOT STUFF! Pepper X, which is 337 to 897 times hotter than a jalapeño, holds the world record for the hottest chili pepper.

What you need to know

- **The heat level of chili peppers is measured by Scoville Heat Units (SHUs). Peppers are ranked from 0 to 3.2 million SHUs, with the average chili having about 6,000 SHUs.**
- **A chemical compound called capsaicin in chili peppers creates a sensation of heat in the mouth.**
- **One study found that in 2025, 95.3% of restaurants in the US had spicy food options. Another found that 48% of people would choose a spicy version over an original menu item.**

These days, spicy food is a big and growing trend. Restaurants are kicking up the heat on their menus—and just in case the options aren't spicy enough, some customers bring hot sauce with them when they dine out. Eating hot chilies has become an extreme sport and social media challenge. NASA (the US space agency) planted red and green chili peppers on the International Space Station. There are even new words for the various types of spicy food, like swicy (sweet and spicy), swangy (spicy, sweet, and tangy), and fricy (fruity and spicy). Some people love this trend, but others say enough with the heat already. What do you think? Has food gotten too spicy?

Yes—it's too hot to handle

Some dishes have always been spicy, but now it seems like everything has to have a hot version. Sure, people (especially younger generations) have developed more adventurous palates, but do we really need spicy ice cream? There are even eating contests to see who can tolerate the most heat. But when people eat a lot of spicy foods, they build up a tolerance and have to eat even spicier stuff to get the same sensation. That's fine for them, but it also means that chefs and food companies have to increase the heat on their options to appeal to them—which is unfair to those who prefer milder flavors.

No—people can take the heat

It's all in good, flavorful fun! There's no way to definitively say that food is too spicy because everyone's taste buds are different. Tolerance to heat can depend on many factors, like a person's genes, so what's spicy for one person may be mild to another. Sure, there's more spicy food in the world—and what's out there is getting spicier—but there's still something for everyone. Besides, spicy is standard in many other countries, like India, Thailand, and Nigeria. It's about time people in the US broadened their horizons and embraced the heat. With more options to choose from, people might find something they really like.

YES Three reasons food has gotten too spicy

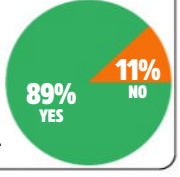
1. **It's good for people to have adventurous palates, but it has all gone too far.**
2. **Foods keep getting spicier as people's heat tolerance grows, and they need more in order to feel the kick. When will it end?**
3. **Chefs and food companies have to amp up the heat to meet demand, which isn't fair to those who prefer milder flavors.**

NO Three reasons food has not gotten too spicy

1. **It's difficult to declare that food is too spicy because what's super hot for one person is mild for another.**
2. **Spicy flavors may be getting stronger and more common, but there's still plenty of regular food out there too.**
3. **Spicy foods are common in other countries. Americans need to embrace the heat.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if it's OK to put ketchup on a hot dog. A majority of you (89%) voted in favor of the controversial topping, but some (11%) are against it.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think food has gotten too spicy or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Calling the next play

Football star Russell Wilson is embarking on a broadcasting career.

Russell Wilson, considered one of the greatest quarterbacks of his generation, has retired from the National Football League (NFL) at age 37, after a 14-year career. For his next job, he is joining CBS Sports as an analyst on *The NFL Today*, a game-day show.

Playing for the New York Giants

Growing up in Richmond, Virginia, Wilson played football in the backyard with his father and older brother. He went on to lead his high school team to three consecutive state championships. Wilson played college football at both North Carolina State University and the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he helped win a Big Ten championship.

In his professional career, Wilson was a dual-threat quarterback known for his ability to throw deep passes and run effectively. He played for four organizations: the Seattle Seahawks (2012–2021), Denver Broncos (2022–2023), Pittsburgh Steelers (2024), and New York Giants (2025). He led the Seahawks to Super Bowls in 2014 and 2015, and they won the 2014 game.

Wilson announced his retirement on June 3 in a video message thanking his family, coaches, teammates, and fans. He also offered this advice to young people: "There will be moments in life where people tell you you're too small, too different, or just simply not enough—wake up every day believing you can do great things."

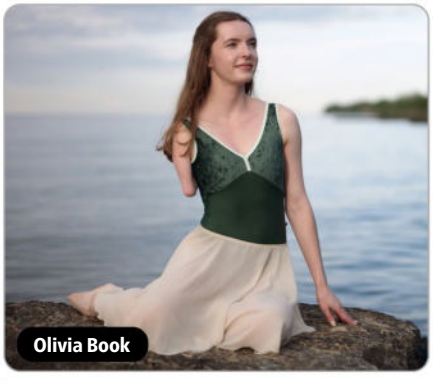
In his role on *The NFL Today*, Wilson will analyze footage and provide commentary every Sunday throughout the upcoming football season. He said he's grateful to "continue doing what I love most, being around the greatest game in the world."

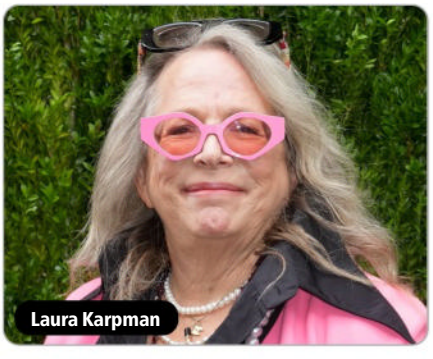
Russell Wilson

WOW! Russell Wilson is the only quarterback in NFL history to surpass 40,000 passing yards and 5,000 rushing yards.

An inspiring dancer

Olivia Book is breaking ballet barriers for people with disabilities. She was born with a limb difference that left her right arm shorter than her left, and she made history in February when she joined the corps de ballet (top ensemble dancers) at Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Utah. Book, who is from Canada, began dancing at age 3. By adapting traditional ballet technique to her body, she hopes to inspire other dancers with limb differences. "When they say they look up to me," she told *The New York Times*, "it means so much."

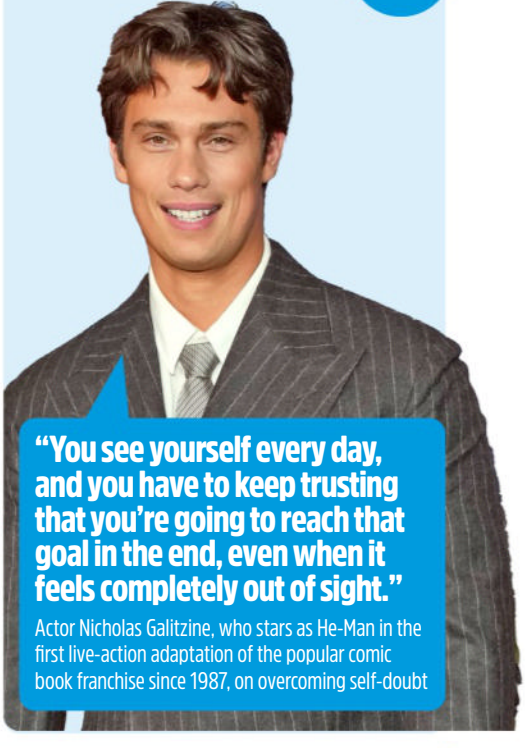

Olivia Book


Laura Karpman

Creating an anthem

Award-winning composer Laura Karpman will create the official fencing anthem for the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Los Angeles, California. It will be the first time a sport has had its own anthem in the Games. Karpman is known for composing music for films and TV, including Marvel productions. She is also a competitive foil fencer. More than 1,000 fencers who play instruments will help record the anthem, which Karpman said will reflect the art of music and the sport of fencing: "They are both about rhythm, precision, grace, and, when required, fierceness."

OVERHEARD



"You see yourself every day, and you have to keep trusting that you're going to reach that goal in the end, even when it feels completely out of sight."

Actor Nicholas Galitzine, who stars as He-Man in the first live-action adaptation of the popular comic book franchise since 1987, on overcoming self-doubt

GETTY IMAGES (4); IAN WILLMS/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

Homing pigeons are a variety of the domestic pigeon.

Why pigeons don't ask for directions

Homing pigeons have been bred and trained for thousands of years because of their ability to navigate over long distances to reach a precise location. But exactly how these birds find their way home from faraway places has remained a mystery. Now a study has pinpointed an answer: Pigeons do this by picking up on Earth's magnetic field through their livers.

Several animal species are known to navigate by sensing Earth's magnetic field, an ability called magnetoreception (see box at right). Scientists knew that pigeons were capable of this, but they didn't know where the ability came from. Some guessed that pigeons could "see" magnetic fields or sense them through their beak, but they never found any clear evidence for those theories.

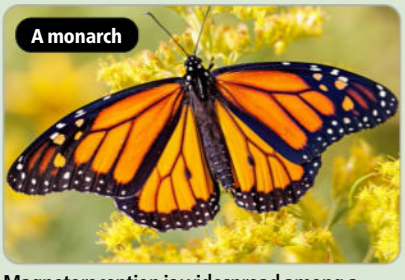
A homing pigeon in flight

For the new study, scientists analyzed several organs that they suspected could be involved in magnetic sensing, including the beak, brain, eyes, liver, and spleen. They zeroed in on the liver after finding that it had the highest concentration of iron, a metal that reacts to magnetic fields. Pigeons' livers contain special cells (the basic building blocks of all living things) called macrophages. As part of the immune system, the macrophages break down old red blood cells, gathering iron from them.

To confirm that macrophages play a part in navigation, the scientists temporarily removed them from trained pigeons at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior in Germany. Although the birds were still able to navigate if the Sun was visible, they lost their sense of direction on cloudy days. This supports the theory that picking up magnetic signals through the liver is an essential method of navigation when birds can't use the position of the Sun to figure out which way to travel.

It's possible that pigeons have more than one way of detecting Earth's magnetic field, since they also have macrophages in other organs. Experts still aren't sure how the birds' brains make sense of the magnetic signals, but they say this research sheds light on the mysteries of magnetoreception. "Animal navigation is one of the most fascinating phenomena in nature," said study co-author Martin Wikelski. "If immune cells are part of how birds sense direction, it would fundamentally change how we understand navigation."

Other magnetic movers


A monarch

Magnetoreception is widespread among a variety of animal species. Monarch butterflies use magnetic signals as a guide during their spectacular migrations across North America. Sharks also seem to use this sense for guidance, and sea turtles have been found to remember the magnetic signatures of specific feeding or nesting areas so they can return to them.

Ansell's mole rats are nearly blind—but not to magnetic fields. Although their eyes cannot see clear images or colors, they can sense magnetic signals, which helps the animals determine where to build their underground nests. And one study has suggested that dogs use Earth's magnetic field to decide what direction to face when they poop.

FAST FLYERS
Dragonflies are some of the fastest insects, capable of flying at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour.

An East Japan tree frog adult (left) and tadpole

Orange tails help tadpoles survive

In the wild, brightly colored body parts get attention. A vivid display may impress a mate, but it can also catch the eye of predators. So scientists were surprised to notice that some tadpoles (young frogs) developed bright orange tails after being exposed to predators. Tadpoles are nearly defenseless and too young to mate, so why risk attracting the wrong kind of attention?

To learn more, researchers placed young East Japan tree frogs in tanks. Each tank had four tadpoles with their original whitish tail color and four whose tails had turned orange. They brought in young blue-spotted emperor dragonflies, which prey on tadpoles of this species. The dragonflies attacked the orange tails more than any other body parts. But these attacks were often unsuccessful, leaving the tadpoles unharmed.

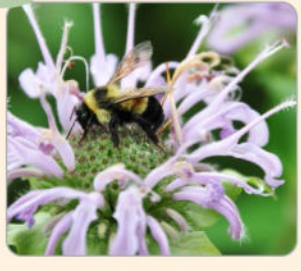
Scientists believe the bright color lures a dragonfly into targeting a tadpole's tail instead of its vulnerable head and organs. The flicking orange tail may also create a visual effect called "motion dazzle" that makes it difficult to accurately aim an attack, giving tadpoles a better chance at survival.

Animal of the week: Amur tiger

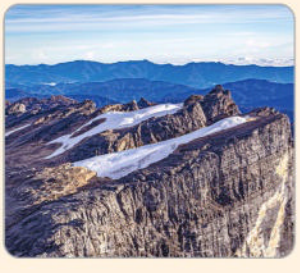
Ljubljana Zoo in Slovenia has announced the birth of three Amur tigers, which are among the world's most endangered big cats. The cubs were born to tiger parents Arisa and Ussuri as part of an international conservation and breeding program.

- **LIFESPAN:** 15 years in the wild, 20 in captivity
- **HABITAT:** Mountains in Russia and China
- **SIZE:** Up to 10 feet long and about 600 pounds
- **DIET:** Elk, deer, wild boars, and fish
- **FUN FACT:** Amur tigers have wide, furry paws that work like snowshoes when they walk.

Good week / Bad week



Rusty patched bumblebees
The US Fish and Wildlife Service finalized protections for about 1.5 million acres of critical habitat for rusty patched bumblebees, an endangered species. The protected land covers 33 counties in six states.



Indonesia's glaciers
Scientists say the last tropical glaciers in Oceania, a region of the South Pacific, are melting away. One of the remaining glaciers, which is located on a mountain on Indonesia's West Papua island, has lost 95% of its ice since 2002.

Enter *The Week Junior*'s Nature Photo Contest!

Do you love taking photographs of plants, flowers, trees, and wildlife? Now is your chance to use your creativity, curiosity, and skills to enter *The Week Junior*'s Nature Photo Contest. The entry form for 8- to 10-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2026PhotoContest-8-10 and 11- to 14-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2026PhotoContest-11-14. Winning entries will be featured in a September 2026 issue of the magazine. See the official rules at theweekjunior.com/photocontestrules.

The deadline to enter is July 28.

GETTY IMAGES (3); JILL UTRUP/USFWS; ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

A drive on a historic

America celebrates the centennial anniversary of a legendary roadway.

US Highway 66, or Route 66, was a major road connecting hundreds of towns and millions of Americans. Let's take a ride back in time.

What is Route 66?

Established in 1926, Route 66 evolved from a patchwork of dirt roads to a substantial highway. It stretches 2,400 miles from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, and has been called "The Main Street of America." The roadway cuts through a total of eight states (Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California) and is now a historic route and tourist attraction.

Why and how was it created?

In the early 1900s, the number of cars on the road greatly increased. The US needed better, safer, and more connected routes to get around. In 1921, the US government passed the Federal Aid Highway Act, which led to the creation of Route 66. Based on existing local, state, and national roads, the route's diagonal course crossed the flat prairies and rolling hills of the Missouri Ozarks, ranch lands of Texas, mesas of New Mexico and Arizona, and the Mojave Desert. It avoided high-elevation passes in the Rocky Mountains as well as snowy weather on northern highways. In 1938, Route 66 was paved into a two-lane highway. This improved Route 66 for truckers, helped farmers transport their crops, and enabled local factories to distribute goods across the nation.

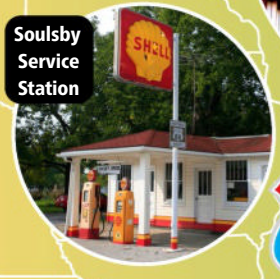
Roadside attractions

Dozens of restaurants, gas stations, motels, and souvenir shops popped up along Route 66 to serve travelers. In New Mexico, the Blue Swallow Motel (near right) has been open since 1940. It still has the stucco exterior and detached garages of the era. And you can still book a room at the El Vado Motel (far right), open since 1937.

GETTY IMAGES (12); ALAMY (9); VIKING PRESS; COURTESY OF VISIT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI; USPS (4)

highway

BURGER BEGINNING
The first McDonald's in the US opened in the 1940s on Route 66 in California.



Soulsby Service Station

CANADA

USA

Chicago

ILLINOIS US 66

Cozy Dog Drive In

Lake of the Ozarks

MISSOURI US 66

OKLAHOMA US 66

St. Louis

Springfield

Tulsa

Amarillo

Oklahoma City

Giant rocking chair

TEXAS US 66

Boot Tree

Route 66 in pop culture

(1) A symbol of adventure, Route 66 was the inspiration for the fictional Route 66 town Radiator Springs in the Pixar film *Cars*. (2) The song "(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66" was made popular by singer Nat King Cole, who sang "take the highway that's the best." (3) In John Steinbeck's classic novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, the route is called the "Mother Road."

Changes through the decades

For Americans seeking better lives, Route 66 became the pathway to new opportunities in the West. After World War II (1939–1945), it was also the main road for Americans who were taking vacations. During segregation, Black people were banned from many establishments along Route 66. From 1936 to 1964, a guide known as the Green Book provided Black travelers with the names of safe restaurants and motels that would welcome them. Multi-lane highways began to replace Route 66 starting in 1956, and it was taken out of service as an official highway in 1985. In 1999, the National Route 66 Preservation Bill was passed, allocating funds to help preserve it. Today, more than 250 buildings and road segments on Route 66 are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Queen's Gate 66

Celebrating 100 years

The official Route 66 Centennial Celebration is underway. The Centennial Monument Project honors communities along the original route with special landmarks and works of art. They include the Queen's Gate 66 sculpture, a new installation in Springfield, Missouri; the First Hundred Miles Monuments throughout Illinois; and the Route 66 Rising sculpture in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In June, the Albuquerque Museum opened an exhibit, "The Other Route 66: 100 Years of People, Identity, and Place in Albuquerque," which includes historic items from the New Mexico stretch of the highway.

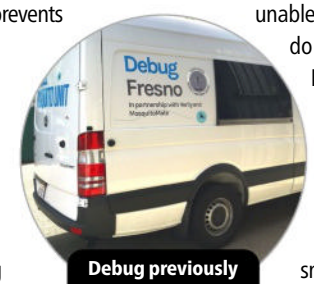
DID YOU KNOW?
There are more than 3,700 types of mosquitoes, which are found on every continent except Antarctica.

Mosquitoes can carry dangerous diseases.

Fighting mosquitoes with bacteria

Google is a tech company, but it also works on public health initiatives. One of these is an effort to fight mosquito-borne illnesses by reducing mosquito populations. As part of that program, Google has asked the US government for permission to release 64 million male mosquitoes in the US. While that might seem illogical at first, there's a twist: The company would first infect the mosquitoes with a bacteria that prevents them from reproducing.

Mosquitoes spread diseases like West Nile virus, Zika, and malaria that kill between 500,000 and 1 million people globally per year, making them the most dangerous animal on Earth. Experts have tried reducing mosquito populations using various methods such as insecticides, but those aren't always successful because the insects can develop a tolerance to the treatment. The chemicals can also be harmful to the environment and to other wildlife, such as pollinators.



Debug previously released mosquitoes from a van.

Google would use artificial intelligence (AI, when a computer imitates human learning), robotics, and automated systems for its mosquito program, which is called Debug. The technology would let the company efficiently breed millions of southern house mosquitoes in a lab, sort them into groups of males and females, and infect the males with a naturally occurring bacteria called Wolbachia. Half of the infected mosquitoes would be released in Florida, the other half in California.

Once out in the world, the male mosquitoes would mate with wild female mosquitoes. Those females would then be able to lay eggs, but the Wolbachia would make it so that the eggs were unable to hatch (as long as the females do not already carry the bacteria). Because female mosquitoes mate only once, the overall population would get smaller with each generation.

The method has been tested on other mosquito species on a smaller scale, including in Fresno, California, and in Singapore, where it was up to 90% effective. But this is the first time it would be used on southern house mosquitoes, which spread West Nile virus, the leading cause of mosquito-borne illness in the US.

Wolbachia is not harmful to people or other animals, insects, or plants. Scientists caution, though, that any change introduced to an ecosystem (group of living things that affect one another) must be monitored closely to ensure that there are no negative effects. The government has not said when it will decide on Google's proposal.

A bug spray surprise

Many bug sprays contain a chemical called DEET, which keeps mosquitoes away from people. A new study has found, however, that mosquitoes can learn to recognize the smell of DEET on humans and think it signals mealtime, which could have the opposite effect.

Scientists put mosquitoes in an enclosed container and fed them. Then, 20 seconds later, DEET was released into the enclosure. The insects quickly learned to recognize the scent of DEET and associate it with food. When those "trained" mosquitoes were exposed to DEET alone, 60% of them tried to eat, compared with 20% of untrained mosquitoes. The team said more research is needed to understand how this applies to mosquitoes in nature but advised people to follow the instructions on their bug spray and reapply it often.

New dinosaur species found in Thailand

A new species of dinosaur has been identified in Thailand, and it's likely the biggest dinosaur ever discovered in Southeast Asia. Called Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis, its fossils were first found 10 years ago, when a local man saw what he thought were strange rocks on the banks of a pond.

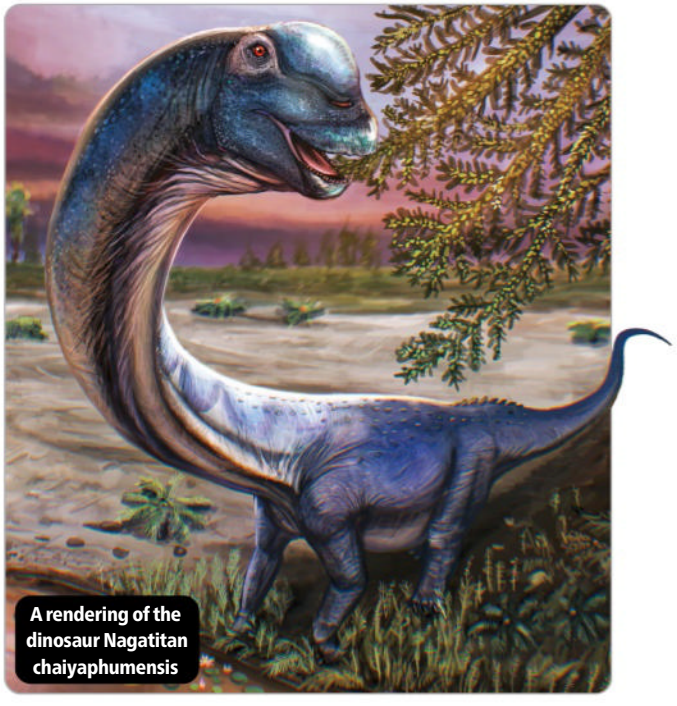
Paleontologists (scientists who study fossils) from the UK and Thailand went on to find 10 Nagatitan fossils, including rib, spine, and leg bones. At a length of 6 feet, one leg bone was taller than some of the researchers. Nagatitan likely weighed about 30 tons and was up to 88 feet long.

The team believes that Nagatitan lived between 100 and 120 million years ago, during the Cretaceous period, when the area was hot and dry. The plant eater belonged to a group of huge dinosaurs called sauropods, known for their long necks and tails.

LARGE BUT LIGHT
Sauropods were the biggest land animals on Earth, but they had air sacs in their bones that made them fairly lightweight.

The name of the newly identified dinosaur is a combination of the word "naga," which is a snake-like creature from Asian myths, with "titan," which means giant. Chaiyaphumensis, which means "from Chaiyaphum," refers to the name of the province where it was found.

"This study doesn't just establish a new species but also fulfills a childhood promise of naming a dinosaur," said the study's lead author, Thitiwoot Sethapanichsakul. Nagatitan is the 14th dinosaur to be named in Thailand.


A rendering of the dinosaur Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis

The last wild Dendroseris neriifolia tree

Seeds from an endangered tree saved

Scientists attempting to save the critically endangered Dendroseris neriifolia tree sent 29 of its seeds to the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) in Sussex, England. They collected the seeds from the last tree of the species that exists in the wild, which grows from a steep cliffside on Robinson Crusoe Island, off the coast of Chile.

Every year, conservation experts undertake a dangerous effort to climb the tree's branches, which are supported by ropes, and catch its seeds in nets. This year, they collected about 400 seeds. The ones they sent to MSB are the first ever given to a seed bank.

MSB said eight of the seeds have already sprouted and will ideally produce seeds of their own. The remaining seeds will be kept for long-term conservation. Storing them ensures that the plant will not be lost forever, even if it dies out in the wild. Chilean officials hope to send more seeds to the UK next year.

AMAZING INVENTION

A wearable device that cools you off

The Reon Pocket Pro Plus

Sony, the electronics company, has designed a personal, wearable thermal unit that keeps you cool on a hot day. The Reon Pocket Pro Plus fits around the user's neck. A stainless steel plate rests against the skin between the shoulders, tucked discreetly under a shirt.

The plate's temperature can be lowered using buttons or an app. That reduces the wearer's skin temperature and, Sony said, can help them feel up to 26° F cooler. A fan vents warm air away from their body. The device can also be used to warm a person up on a cold day.

ON RIGHT PAGE: PATCHANOP BOONSAI; MATIAS ADOLFO GONZÁLEZ TOBAR; SONY; ON LEFT PAGE: VERILY LIFE SCIENCES; GETTY IMAGES (2)

Photos of the week

2026 WORLD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS FINALISTS

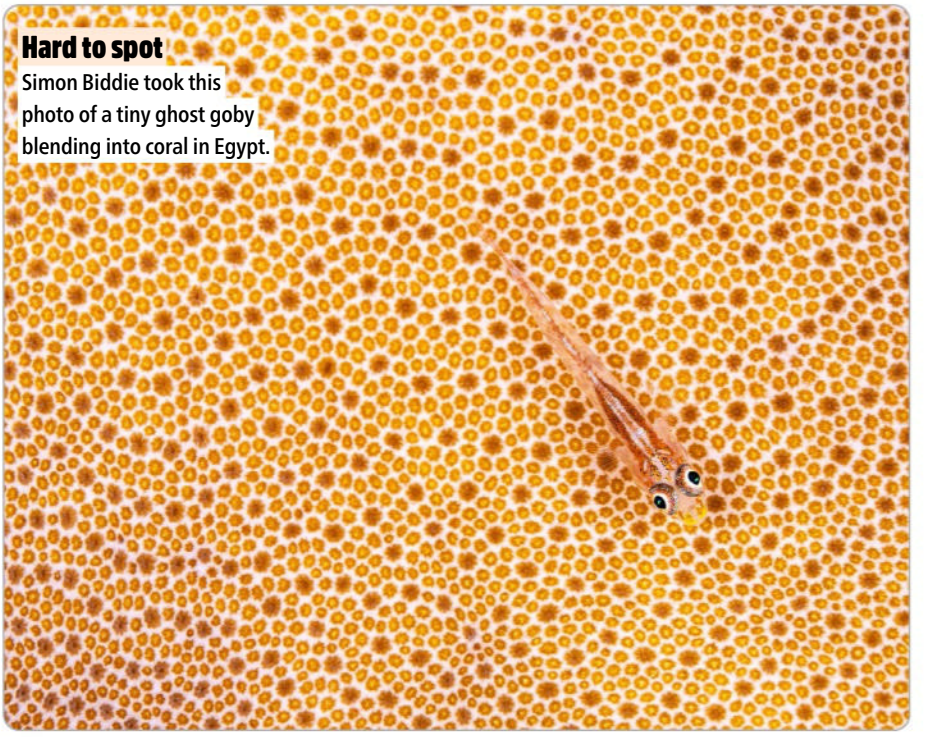
Watchful eyes
This picture of a gorilla was taken by Mary Schrader in Uganda.

Frozen beauty
Stuart Chape photographed a river running through a glacier in New Zealand.

JONO ALLEN; EDUARDO SALVADOR CABRERA; FENQIANG LIU; MARY SCHRADER; STUART CHAPE; SIMON BIDDIE

Photos of the week

Winging it
Fenqiang Liu shot this image of an egret in Florida.



Hard to spot
Simon Biddie took this photo of a tiny ghost goby blending into coral in Egypt.

Family unit
The overall contest winner, Jono Allen, captured this shot of a humpback whale and her rare white calf in Tonga.

Bugging out
This close-up of a bee was taken by Eduardo Salvador Cabrera in Spain.

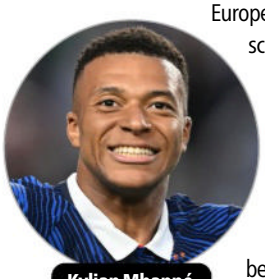
STRONG PERFORMERS
Brazil, Germany, and Argentina are the only countries whose teams have at least 50 all-time World Cup match wins.

Canada vs. South Africa on June 28

World Cup knockouts begin

The 2026 FIFA World Cup recently entered an exciting new phase. After the group stage concluded on June 27, the tournament entered the knockout rounds, where teams must win or be eliminated from the competition. When *The Week Junior* went to press, several matches in the Round of 32 had been played, with more to come.

During the first stage of the tournament, 48 teams competed within 12 groups. In each group, the two teams with the most points (earned by wins and ties) automatically made the Round of 32. The eight third-place teams with the most points also moved on. All three World Cup host nations—the US, Canada, and Mexico—advanced. The US Men's National Team (USMNT) was scheduled to take on the team from Bosnia and Herzegovina on July 1.



Kylian Mbappé

The US finished the group stage with a 2–1 record after losing to Turkey on June 25 but still won their group. The other group winners were soccer powerhouses Brazil, Germany, Argentina, England, France, Spain, and the Netherlands, plus Mexico, Switzerland, Belgium, and Colombia.

Seven teams made the knockout round for the first time, including Cape Verde, an island nation off of West Africa making its first World Cup appearance. It is the smallest country to reach the knockout stage in World Cup history. The team finished second in its group after three draws, including a 0–0 match with Spain, the reigning European champions. Cape Verde was scheduled to face defending World Cup champion Argentina on July 3.

In the first Round of 32 match, on June 28 in Los Angeles, California, Canada beat South Africa, 1–0. They had never even made it out of the group stage before. Other Round of 32 winners included Brazil, Paraguay, Morocco, Norway, France, Mexico, and England.

Among players, there is a close competition for the Golden Boot, the award for the top scorer. As of June 30, France's Kylian Mbappé was in the lead with six goals and two assists, followed by Argentina's Lionel Messi with just six goals. The next day, England's Harry Kane scored twice, increasing his total to five goals, which put him in a tie for third with Norway's Erling Haaland.

NWSL Challenge Cup winner

In the NWSL (National Women's Soccer League), NJ/NY Gotham FC and the Kansas City Current competed in the Challenge Cup on June 26. It is an annual match between the league's defending champions and the team that won the previous season's NWSL Shield, the award for the best regular-season record. Gotham (above), the NWSL's 2025 champs, won the game, 2–0. Esther González and rookie Jordynn Dudley scored the goals. This is Gotham's first Challenge Cup title.

The match was held in Columbus, Ohio, and was the state's first pro women's soccer match. Columbus will get its own NWSL team in 2028.

DID YOU KNOW?
The NBA is planning an expansion that would add teams in Las Vegas and Seattle.

Players drafted and traded in NBA

On June 23 and 24, the 2026 NBA (National Basketball Association) Draft was held at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York. During the two-round event, all 30 NBA teams had the chance to select top college and international players to add to their teams.

The NBA Draft is designed to help teams improve. The ones with the worst records in the most recent season pick early in the draft. This year, the Washington Wizards had the number one overall pick and selected AJ Dybantsa from Brigham Young University (BYU). He played one college season and averaged 25.5 points, 6.8 rebounds, and 3.1 assists per game. He is the only BYU player to be the first overall pick.

The Utah Jazz had the second pick and chose Darryn Peterson from the University of Kansas. The other top five picks were Cameron Boozer of Duke University, who went to the Memphis Grizzlies, Caleb Wilson of the University of North Carolina, who was taken by the Chicago Bulls, and Keaton Wagler from the University of Illinois, who was drafted by the Los Angeles Clippers.

History was made later in the first round when Karim Lopez, who played internationally, was selected with the 21st pick. He is the first Mexican-born player ever chosen in the first round of the NBA Draft. He was drafted by the Detroit Pistons, then traded to the Memphis Grizzlies.

Teams have been trading their stars too. Among the players on the move are Giannis Antetokounmpo, a two-time NBA Most Valuable Player who is going from the Milwaukee Bucks to the Miami Heat, and LaMelo Ball, a former All-Star who was traded from the Charlotte Hornets to the Minnesota Timberwolves.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Emma Jernovics**

Team: **Anderson Barracudas M.E. Lyons YMCA (swimming)**

"Coach Emma is funny and creates great practices. She always has a smile on her face and greets us with the warmest welcome. Before meets, she gives us comforting talks that make our nerves go away. She congratulates us when we do well, and if not, she tells us how we could do better. After that, I feel like I'm still a winner! Coach Emma is truly the best coach I've ever had!" Juliana, 9, Kentucky

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

MORE BIG MOMENTS

BASKETBALL

Several recent WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) games have been unforgettable for teams and players. In a 125–97 Toronto Tempo win over the Los Angeles Sparks on June 25, Tempo star Marina Mabrey scored 53 points, tying the WNBA's single-game scoring record. She tied another league record by hitting nine 3-pointers in the game. The next day, in a 124–94 Chicago Sky win over the Portland Fire, Sky center Kamilla Cardoso hit 13 shots without a miss, a new WNBA record. On June 28, the Washington Mystics beat the Portland Fire, 124–123, in quadruple overtime. Only one other WNBA game has ever gone that long. Two days later, the New York Liberty won their second WNBA Commissioner's Cup, an in-season tournament, with a 93–85 victory over the Las Vegas Aces.

SWIMMING

Nine days after US star Kate Douglass set a new world record in the women's 50-meter freestyle, fellow American Gretchen Walsh, her training partner, beat that time at the Sette Colli meet in Rome, Italy, on June 28. Walsh's new record for the distance is 23.55 seconds, which is .04 seconds faster than Douglass's earlier record.

BASEBALL

On June 18, the Boston Red Sox beat the New York Yankees, 5–4, in 10 innings, to complete a four-game series sweep of their rivals. After giving up a two-run lead in the ninth, the Red Sox scored three runs in the 10th, with Jarren Duran batting in the winner. Starting Red Sox pitcher Sonny Gray struck out nine in the game.

GETTY IMAGES (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

FILM HISTORY
Dwayne Johnson is the first actor to voice a Disney animated character and then play the same character in a live-action remake.

Moana

A live-action *Moana* movie

The hit film about a brave girl and a shape-shifting demigod is being retold in a new way.

Two of the most popular movies last year were live-action versions of the popular animated films *Lilo & Stitch* and *How to Train Your Dragon*, and there's another big remake on the way. On July 10, a live-action *Moana* will arrive in theaters.

As fans of the original 2016 animated film know, *Moana* takes place in a fictional ancient setting inspired by Polynesia—a region that includes modern-day Samoa, Tahiti, New Zealand, and Hawaii. It is a story about a courageous teen who wants to save her island home, so she goes on an ocean voyage and teams up with the demigod Maui. As with the first film, the live-action version is a musical featuring songs such as "You're Welcome" and "How Far I'll Go."

Dwayne Johnson

The animated Maui was voiced by actor Dwayne Johnson, who physically portrays the shape-shifting trickster in the new film. Auli'i Cravalho, the voice of animated Moana, did not return to her role, but she is an executive producer of the film. She also recorded a new song, "Along the Way," with the new Moana, Catherine Laga'aia. It plays during the end credits and was written by *Hamilton* creator and *Encanto* composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, who also wrote many of the other songs in *Moana*.

To find the actress who would portray the live-action Moana, there was a worldwide casting search that attracted 32,000 contenders. Laga'aia, age 19, is an Australian of Samoan descent. She told Fandango that growing up with the original film and seeing a Disney princess who shared her heritage was meaningful. Now, she said, "Getting to represent all of the Pacific Islands, but more specifically for me, getting to represent Samoa and where I come from is such a blessing, and it's such an honor."

As with *Moana* and the 2024 animated sequel *Moana 2*, cultural advisers helped ensure that the movie represents authentic Polynesian traditions, history, and clothing. Much of the cast, including Johnson, has Polynesian roots. Although the movie has some computer-generated imagery, it was filmed in real locations and on island sets.

The reimagined *Moana* was directed by Thomas Kail, who directed *Hamilton* on Broadway. He told a Hawaiian TV show that he wanted to honor the first film and have his version "live alongside" it. His goal is for people to see the new movie and then want to rewatch the original. He also said he hopes Polynesian moviegoers leave the theater feeling "proud, seen, and appreciated."

Another character returns

A new Prime Video series, *Elle* (above), which premiered on July 1, has brought back the beloved main character from the hit 2001 film *Legally Blonde* (PG-13). In the movie, Elle Woods is a bubbly, pink-loving college graduate who follows her boyfriend to Harvard Law School and ends up surprising everyone with her intelligence. *Elle* (TV-14) is a prequel set in 1995. The character is a high school student whose family moves from Los Angeles, California, to Seattle, Washington.

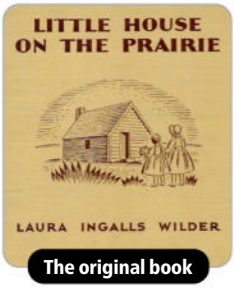
Award-winning actress Reese Witherspoon originated the role of Elle, and Lexi Minetree plays the younger version of her. Minetree said she admires Elle's determination. "She is someone who—no matter what, even if she fails—gets back up, dusts herself off, and keeps going," she said.

WOW! The nine *Little House* books have been translated into more than 30 languages and have been read in more than 100 countries.

TV series based on famous books

For nearly 100 years, readers have enjoyed author Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* books, which are set on the American frontier in the late 1800s. The stories, which were based on Ingalls's own life, inspired a hit TV series that aired from 1974 to 1983. Now Netflix is releasing a new take on Wilder's world. Season one of *Little House on the Prairie* will be released on July 9, and a second season is coming.

The new show is based on the third book in Wilder's collection, also titled *Little House on the Prairie*. It follows young Laura (played by Alice Halsey) as she and her family settle near the developing town of Independence, Kansas. They face the harsh conditions of prairie life, including illness, wolves, and fires.



The original book

While this adaptation features many events Ingalls wrote about, it also expands the perspective beyond her family. For example, it explores how the arrival of white settlers affects the Indigenous people, such as the Osage, who lived on the prairie first. The show also includes characters that appeared only briefly in the books. One is Dr. George Tann, a real Black physician who treated the Ingalls family. Rebecca Sonnenshine, who oversees the series, told *The Hollywood Reporter* that he is a "connector of different communities" in the show because he treats white settlers, Black settlers, and Indigenous people.

Ingalls's books are about family and optimism, and those themes are also in the TV series. "I always like to say that this show is a love story about a family," Sonnenshine told the Netflix site Tudum. "They're a family you want to be with, you want to know, you want to spend time with."

READER RECOMMENDS

Futurama *TV-14 (Hulu, Disney+, or rent on major platforms)*

"This show is about Fry, a guy who was accidentally frozen in 1999 and wakes up at the end of 2999. He meets Bender, a self-centered robot, and Leela, a one-eyed alien. They get jobs at Planet Express Delivery Company, which is run by a mad scientist and inventor, The Professor, who is Fry's very distant future nephew. Their coworkers include Amy, the Professor's intern; Hermes, a Jamaican bureaucrat; and Dr. Zoidberg, an eccentric physician. I love *Futurama* because it's action-packed and hilarious and it features inventions and things you might expect 1,000 years from now, plus way more." Mira, 11, California

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

3 MORE PICKS TO ENJOY THIS WEEK

WATCH: DANCING WITH THE STARS: THE NEXT PRO

A new *Dancing with the Stars (DWTS)* spin-off premieres on ABC on July 13. In the show, pro dancers compete to win a spot on the next season of *DWTS*. It is hosted by *DWTS* season 34 celebrity winner Robert Irwin and features some of the show's pros as mentors. (ABC, Disney+, Hulu)

CLICK: THE KID SHOULD SEE THIS

There are more than 8,300 videos on this site, and they've all been screened and selected by an educational media expert. Users can find clips related to science, art, math, technology, history, and culture. Among the highlights are videos about gum-wrapper art and penguins exploring an aquarium. (thekidshouldseethis.com)

WATCH: CAMP SNOOPY

Snoopy and the Beagle Scouts are back for a second season of this animated series. They return to Camp Spring Lake along with Charlie Brown and the rest of the Peanuts gang for more outdoor adventures. Expect a search for an elusive hedge toad and debates over hot dogs versus hamburgers. (Apple TV+)

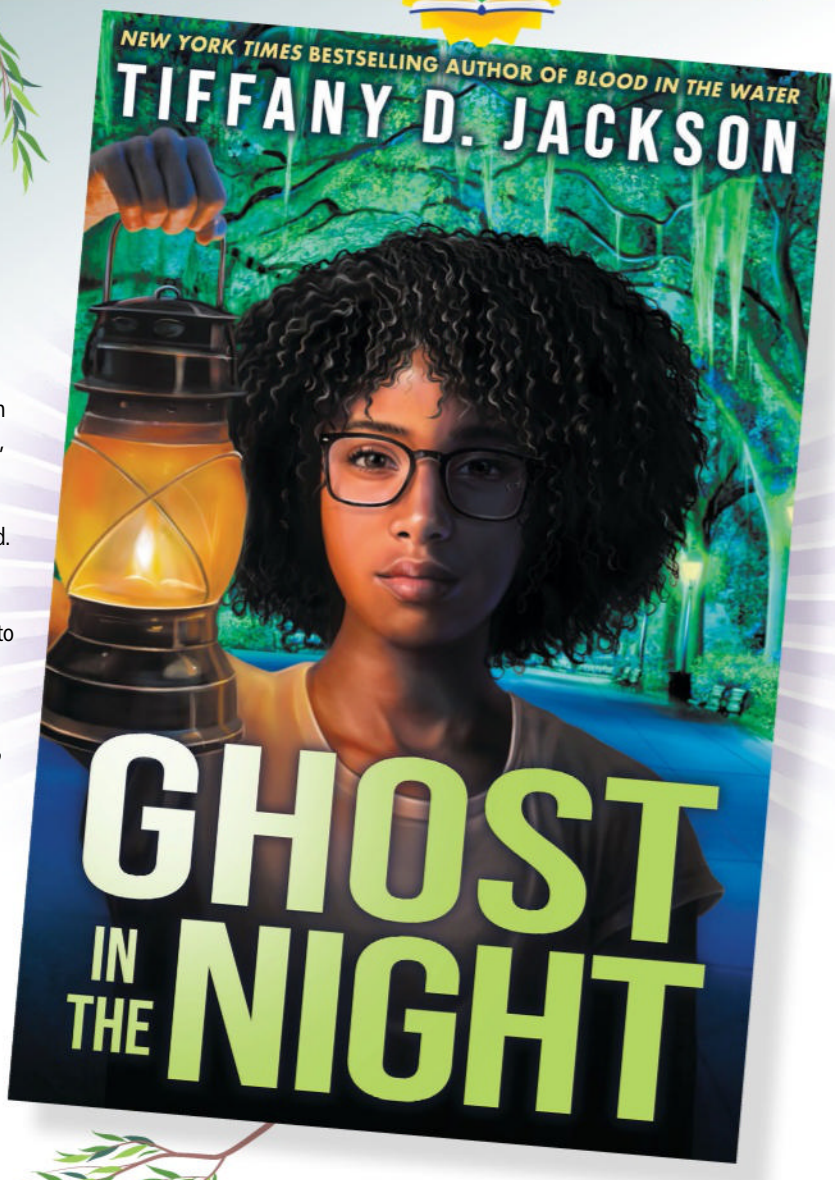
ERIC ZACHANOWICH/NETFLIX; HARPER & BROTHERS; DISNEY; DISNEY/VINCE VALITUTTI; THE KID SHOULD SEE THIS, LLC; APPLE TV+; ON LEFT PAGE: DISNEY (2); JESSICA BROOKS/PRIME

2026 Summer of Reading

THIS WEEK'S BOOK

Ghost in the Night

By Tiffany D. Jackson



Ever since 12-year-old Harmony's grandmother died, she's been accompanying her widowed father on the road as he plays musical gigs across the US. His latest stop brings them to Savannah, Georgia, where Harmony goes on a ghost tour of the notoriously haunted city.

These tours have become a hobby for Harmony, who struggles with the nagging feeling that her grandmother's spirit might still be around. She's not the only one in mourning. The entire town has been shocked by the suspected murder of Tim Truman, a beloved historian, and the disappearance of his young nephew.

During the tour, the guide points out the Myers House, which is located in a neighborhood built on an African American burial ground. Harmony takes a photo that seems to capture a ghostly image. Her new friend Myah believes the ghost of Mr. Truman is in the picture!

The girls unite with a 10-year-old robotics genius to hatch a plan to sneak into the Myers House, solve the murder, and find the missing boy. They'll have to act fast because not only is there a potential killer on the loose—the rotting home is scheduled for demolition. Spooky and sentimental, this mystery will keep you turning pages. *Ages 8–12*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

How might someone find ghosts both unsettling and comforting?

Did the novel make you more likely to believe or disbelieve ghosts exist?

If you could choose another city for the story, which one would you pick? Explain.

What do you think the author is trying to say about the lack of attention given to the disappearance of Mr. Truman's nephew?

Which character in the novel would you be interested in reading more about and why?

Find your next great read

If you liked…

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library
By Chris Grabenstein
In this first book in the popular series, a dozen kids locked in a library overnight have to solve puzzles made by a quirky game-maker to escape. The first team to exit will win an amazing prize! *Ages 8–12*

You might like…

The Library of Ever
By Zeno Alexander
An 11-year-old girl stumbles upon a secret passage to an epic library that contains all the wisdom of the universe. When the library is threatened by a dark force, she will uncover secrets hidden in its books to save it. *Ages 8–12*

Guess the book this quote comes from

"Well, maybe it started that way. As a dream, but doesn't everything? Those buildings. These lights. This whole city. Somebody had to dream about it first. And maybe that is what I did."

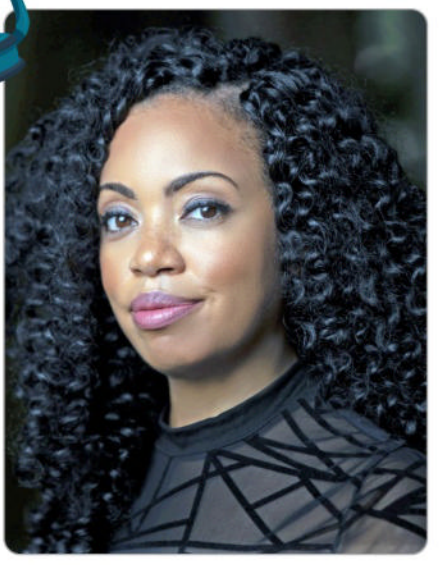
Hint: Its title includes the name of a fruit.

Answer: *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl. James, an orphan who lives with his cruel aunts, reflects after sailing across the ocean to New York City, realizing his dreams have come true.

AUTHOR AMBASSADOR

Tiffany D. Jackson

Best-selling and award-winning author Tiffany D. Jackson is known for writing middle-grade and young adult books that involve mystery, suspense, and social issues, such as racism and bullying. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Jackson studied filmmaking in college and uses her storytelling skills to write deep and meaningful books.



What inspired *Ghost in the Night*?

I was having lunch with some publishing people, and we were talking about my love of spooky stuff. I mentioned that one of my favorite things to do when I go to new cities is to take ghost tours because I feel like you get to hear a lot about each city's underground history. My editor overheard me saying this and said, "That would be a good book."

What do you enjoy about writing books for children?

They remind me of myself as a younger reader. They are the types of readers who are always searching for answers because they want to be as knowledgeable as the adults in the room.

Which writer most influenced you?

Maya Angelou. I was introduced to her by my grandma. I vividly remember being 9 years old and holding one of her books. I think about her pacing, her tone, and her use of words in very creative ways. The fact that I could understand it at an early age was always very important to me. It felt like a gift.

Did you always want to be a writer?

Yes! I knew I wanted to write books since about age 4, even before I could read. My mom and my aunties always had big books in their hands, and I couldn't wait until I was old enough to read too.

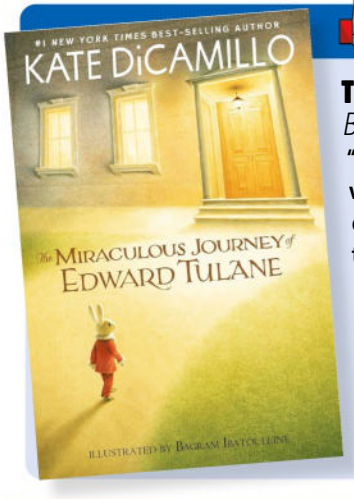
What do you do to relax?

I love to travel—to visit and explore different countries. I have gone to six of the seven world wonders, and I have one left.

Do you have a favorite Southern food?

I love Southern food, big-time. The last time I was in Savannah, doing research for *Ghost in the Night*, I kept eating hush puppies, which are fried balls of cornmeal dough. They're so good!

Reader recommends



The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

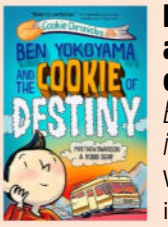
By Kate DiCamillo

"This book is from the perspective of Edward Tulane, a very self-centered china rabbit who thinks he has the best owner ever, Abilene. They love each other dearly. They thought they would be together forever—but Edward gets lost. It is a lovely, head-spinning, and sad journey as he passes from owner to owner. Only one thought is going through his mind: Will he ever get back to his darling Abilene? Read to find out!" Ella, 11, Georgia

Do you have a book to recommend? We want to hear about it! With an adult's help, please send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

3 exciting reads about road trips

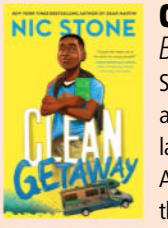
Come along for the ride as these books' characters have adventures of a lifetime.



Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Destiny

By Matthew Swanson, illustrated by Robbi Behr

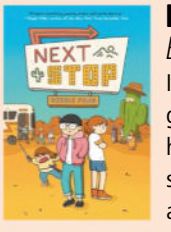
When Ben's family packs into a large trailer for a cross-country drive to California, they have a secret stowaway: Ben's bestie, Janet. She's been hiding in the bathroom! When Ben discovers her, many misadventures ensue. Perfect for fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, this illustrated book is hilarious. *Ages 8–12*



Clean Getaway

By Nic Stone

Scoob, age 11, jumps at the chance to take a last-minute road trip from Atlanta, Georgia, and travel throughout the South in his grandmother's new camper. But he knows something's wrong when his grandma avoids answering phone calls from Scoob's dad. She's actually hoping to retrace her secretive past and teach Scoob about civil rights. But it all doesn't go as planned. *Ages 8–12*



Next Stop

By Debbie Fong

In this unputdownable graphic novel, Pia and her pal go on a bus tour, stopping at wacky roadside attractions. The last one leaves Pia at a mysterious underground lake that locals believe has magical powers. Pia hopes that's true, because she could use some help to patch up her family after the loss of her younger brother and her parents' decision to move to a new town. *Ages 8–12*

Find out more about *The Week Junior* Book Club and check out our previous titles at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: COURTESY OF TIFFANY D. JACKSON; GETTY IMAGES

Easy, fun recipes to try

Make these delicious snacks, drinks, lunches, and desserts using the flavors of the summer season.

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY BONBONS

Ingredients

- 1 pint fresh raspberries
- ⅓ cup white chocolate chips
- 1¼ cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons coconut oil

Instructions

1. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Push a white chocolate chip into the center of each raspberry, then place the berries on the baking sheet. Freeze 1 hour.
2. Combine the semisweet chocolate chips with the coconut oil in a microwave-safe bowl. With an adult's help, melt chips according to the package directions. Use a fork to dip each raspberry in the chocolate, allowing the excess to drip back into the bowl, then return berry to the baking sheet.
3. Freeze the berries once more until the chocolate is set, about 20 minutes. Makes about 6 servings.

ORANGE CREAMSICLE POPS

Ingredients

- 3 large navel oranges, peeled and sliced
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- ½ cup plus 2 tablespoons superfine sugar
- Orange food coloring (optional)
- ¾ cup heavy cream
- 1¼ cups plain Greek yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

JUST AS SWEET
Superfine sugar is also known by the names caster sugar, extra-fine sugar, and baker's sugar.

Instructions

1. Have 10 popsicle molds ready to use. In a blender, combine the orange slices, orange juice, 2 tablespoons superfine sugar, and a few drops of food coloring if using. Blend ingredients until smooth and set aside.
2. In a large bowl, combine the remaining ½ cup superfine sugar with the heavy cream, yogurt, and vanilla. With a hand mixer, blend on medium until the mixture is fluffy but holds peaks, about 3 minutes. Place in a zip-top plastic bag and snip the corner.
3. Pipe a dollop of the whipped yogurt into a popsicle mold. Add a few tablespoons of the orange mixture (give it a stir if it has separated). Continue to fill each mold, alternating between the two mixtures, while leaving about ⅛ inch for each pop to expand when it freezes.
4. Add a popsicle stick to each mold, then freeze the pops until solid, at least 6 hours. Makes 10 pops.

JOY HOWARD

TWO-MELON SLUSHIE

Ingredients

- 1 cup watermelon, cubed
- 1 cup cantaloupe or honeydew, cubed
- 3 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 to 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1½ cups ice
- ¼ cup sparkling water

Instructions

1. Combine the watermelon, cantaloupe, lime juice, 2 tablespoons sugar, ice, and sparkling water in a blender and mix until you have a slushie.
2. Taste and add more sugar if desired. Serve immediately. Makes about 3 servings.

CLOSE COUSINS
Melons belong to the same plant family as squash, pumpkin, and cucumber.

NO-BAKE BLUEBERRY CINNAMON GRANOLA CUPS

Ingredients

- 1½ cups plain granola (no nuts or fruit)
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil, melted
- 2 tablespoons honey
- ⅓ cup almond butter
- ¾ teaspoon cardamom
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- 1½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- Plain Greek yogurt, for serving
- Fresh blueberries, for serving

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, stir together the granola, coconut oil, honey, almond butter, cardamom, ginger, cinnamon, and salt.
2. Evenly divide the mixture among 6 wells of a silicone muffin pan. (Silicone is a flexible material that helps you easily pop out the granola cups from the pan when they are done.) With a big measuring spoon, press the mixture into the bottom and up the sides of the pan. Freeze for at least 30 minutes.
3. To serve, remove a granola cup from pan and place on a plate. Fill cup with yogurt, then top with blueberries. Makes 6 cups.

RECORD WRAP
The longest sushi roll ever—which measured more than 9,332 feet—was created in 2016 in Japan.

CALI ROLL RICE BOWL

Ingredients

- 1 cup (about 8 ounces) real or imitation crab in bite-size pieces
- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1 scallion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 2 cups cooked sushi rice
- 1 medium carrot, shredded
- 1 Persian cucumber, chopped
- 1 avocado, chopped
- 3 snack-size sheets nori (seaweed), cut into thin strips
- Toasted sesame seeds, for serving

Instructions

1. In a bowl, stir crab, mayonnaise, half the scallion, and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Evenly divide rice between two bowls. Next, evenly divide the carrots, cucumbers, avocado, and nori.
3. Evenly divide the crab salad you made in step 1 into each bowl.
4. Sprinkle bowls with sesame seeds. Serve immediately. Makes 2 servings.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a knife, stove, oven, mixer, or blender for any recipes on these pages.

EVERYTHING PIZZA CALZONES

Ingredients

- One (14-ounce) tube refrigerated pizza dough
- ¾ cup marinara sauce
- ¾ cup shredded mozzarella
- 16 slices pepperoni
- 12 black olives, quartered
- 2 large mushrooms, sliced
- 2 baby bell peppers, thinly sliced

SAVORY SURPRISE
A calzone is a baked pizza-like turnover that is stuffed with various fillings.

Instructions

1. Cut four squares of parchment paper and heat the oven to 425° F.
2. Unroll the dough and divide it into 4 portions. Place a portion on each parchment square. Roll out one dough into a 5- by 7-inch rectangle. Spread half with 1 tablespoon marinara sauce. Top with 3 tablespoons mozzarella, then add one quarter each of the pepperoni, olives, mushrooms, and bell peppers.
3. Fold the uncovered half of the dough over the filling and pinch together the edges. Crimp and seal with a fork.
4. Transfer the calzone on the parchment to the baking sheet. Repeat with remaining dough portions and filling ingredients. If needed, trim the parchment pieces slightly so they all fit on the pan.
5. With adult supervision, use kitchen shears to snip three holes in the top of each calzone, then bake until golden brown, about 12 to 15 minutes. Let the calzones cool slightly before serving with the remaining ½ cup marinara on the side. Makes 4 calzones.

JOY HOWARD

BROILED CHICKEN SATAY SKEWERS

Ingredients

FOR THE CHICKEN:

- ½ cup canned coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs cut into 1½-inch cubes
- Six (8-inch) metal skewers

FOR THE PEANUT SAUCE:

- ⅔ cup natural peanut butter
- 2½ to 3 teaspoons red curry paste
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons fish sauce

Instructions

1. Combine the coconut milk, brown sugar, curry powder, salt, and pepper in a shallow dish. Add the chicken and stir to coat. Cover dish and marinate in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.
2. To make the sauce, whisk together the peanut butter, curry paste, sugar, soy sauce, salt, and fish sauce with ½ cup water in a small saucepan over medium-low heat. Let cook, stirring occasionally, until the sugar is completely dissolved. Set aside.
3. Heat the broiler and line a baking sheet with foil. With an adult's help, thread the chicken onto the skewers. Broil until brown in spots, about 5 minutes. Flip skewers and continue to broil until cooked through and browned in spots, about 5 minutes more.
4. Serve the skewers with the peanut sauce on the side. (If the sauce becomes too thick, it can be loosened with 1 or 2 tablespoons of water.) Makes 3 servings.

EGGPLANT PARMESAN STACKS

Ingredients

- ⅓ cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 2 medium eggplants, cut into 15 ½-inch-thick slices
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1½ cups shredded fresh mozzarella
- ½ cup shredded Parmesan
- ½ cup marinara
- ¼ cup fresh basil leaves, torn

Instructions

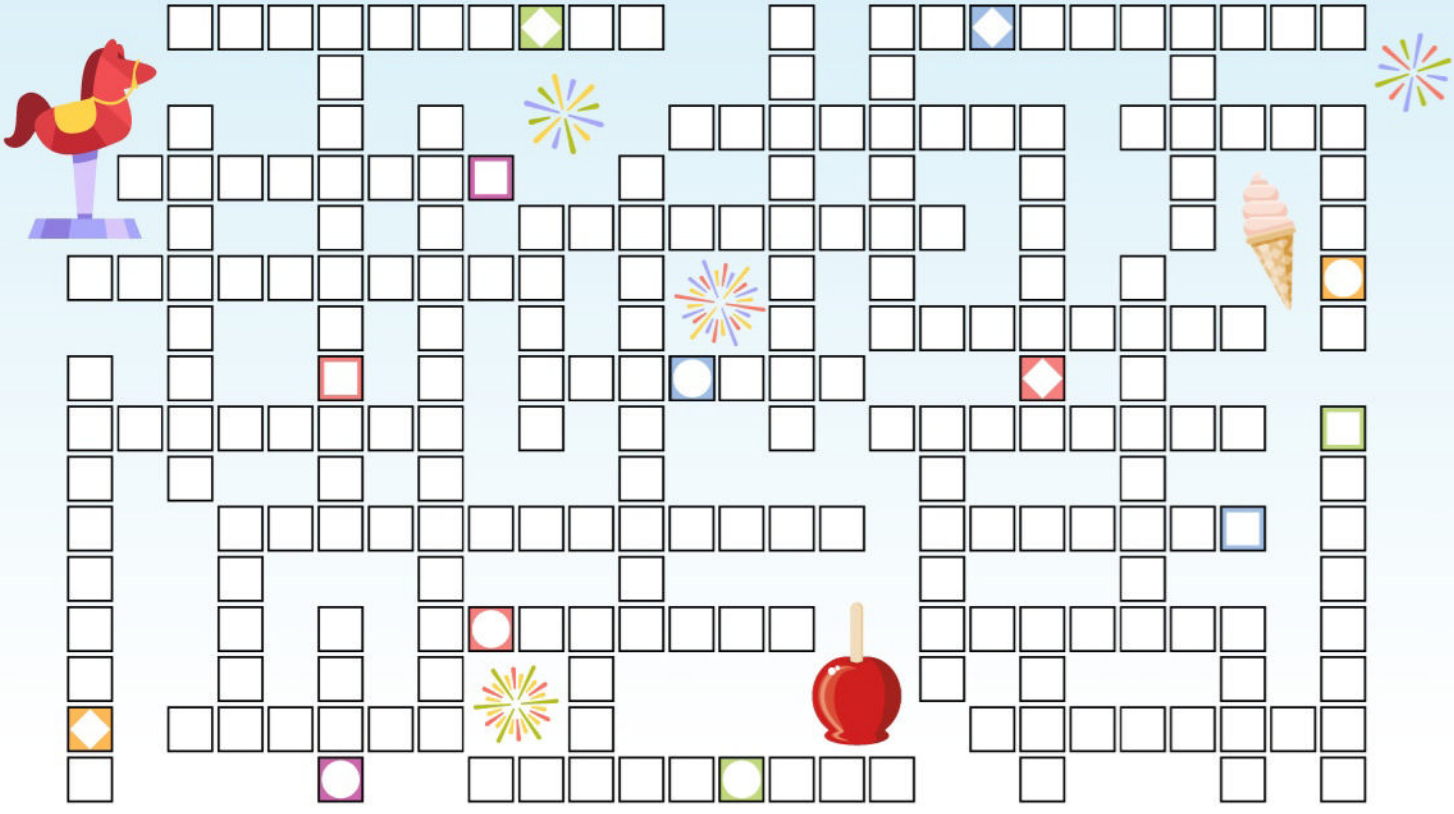
1. Heat oven to 425° F. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, combine panko and 1 tablespoon oil. Toast, stirring often, until golden. Cool on a plate.
2. Place eggplant slices on a baking sheet and drizzle both sides with oil. Season with salt, pepper, and oregano. Bake, turning once, about 25 minutes.
3. Combine mozzarella and Parmesan in a bowl. Spread 1 teaspoon marinara onto each of five eggplant slices. Top each with a tablespoon of cheese. Repeat these steps to build a stack with three slices, ending with cheese. Top with panko. Bake until cheese melts, 10 minutes. Add basil before serving. Makes 5 stacks.

Summertime stumpers!

Amusement park crisscross

Each of these words associated with amusement parks fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid? When you're done, 13 letters will appear in boxes containing a variety of colored shapes. Transfer those letters into the matching boxes below to get the answer to the riddle.

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 37.



4 letters
CREW
EXIT
SHOW
TRAM

5 letters
LINES
PRIZE
RIDES
SEATS
STAGE

6 letters
LIGHTS
T-SHIRT

7 letters
CHURROS
GRAVITY
LOCKERS
THEATER
TICKETS

8 letters
CAROUSEL
COSTUMES
GIFT SHOP
ICE CREAM
MONORAIL
PLUSH TOY
RESTROOM
SKEE-BALL
UNIFORMS
WAIT TIME

9 letters
ADMISSION
FIREWORKS
SOUVENIRS
SPRINKLER

10 letters
BUMPER CARS
CANDY APPLE
PERFORMERS
WATER SLIDE

11 letters
FERRIS WHEEL

13 letters
MINIMUM HEIGHT
ROLLER COASTER

Q: Why do board game players also enjoy going on roller coasters?

A:

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

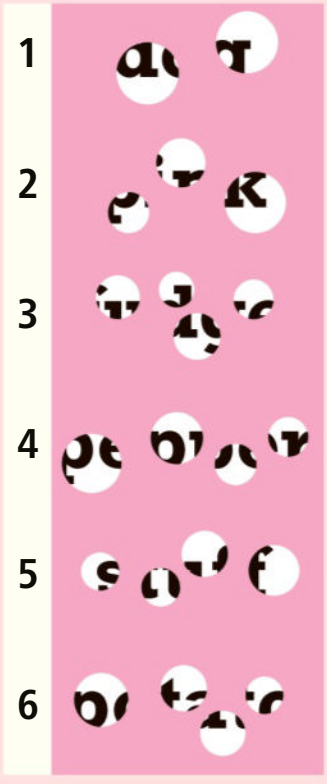
DETAILS, DETAILS

Six pieces have been removed from this photo of seashells. Can you match the circular details under the photo with the numbered sections they came from?

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

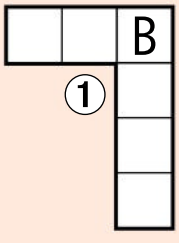
Hot spots

Can you read these words from the small amounts shown? Each is a word that can follow "hot" to make a familiar phrase, like "hot sauce."



Animal crossings

Use the letters given beneath each grid to fill in an animal and its young, like HORSE and FOAL. The letter where the words cross is given.



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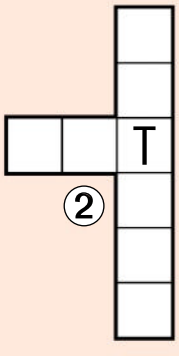

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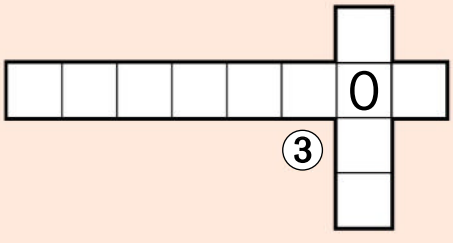

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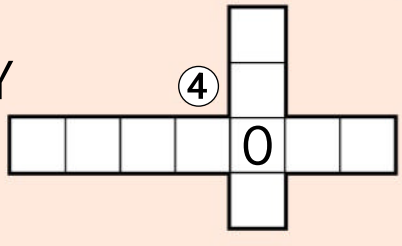


ADEFGLPRT

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

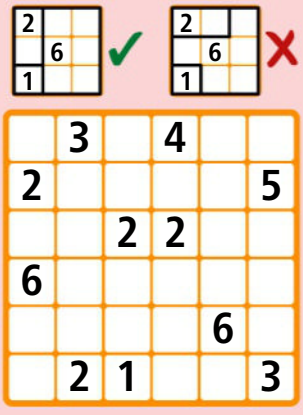
Color chaos

These 12 Crayola crayon colors have their names mixed up. Can you put the correct name on each color?

1 Manatee	2 Inchworm	3 Macaroni and Cheese
4 Canary	5 Fuzzy Wuzzy	6 Desert Sand
7 Mountain Meadow	8 Aquamarine	9 Outer Space
10 Cotton Candy	11 Razzmatazz	12 Denim

Four corners

Divide this grid along the lines into rectangles and squares, so that a single number appears in each shape. That number must match the number of boxes making up the shape.



	3		4		
2					5
		2	2		
6					
				6	
	2	1			3

Juggling act

Use the letters O, G, and L in any order to complete each four-letter word.

O	G	L	
C			
			F
		N	
	O		
		A	
			W

OVERLAPS

For each word pair, answer each of the two clues by completing the word in the boxes below or above it. When you're done, find the hidden word that has been formed across the spot where each pair of words is joined. The four hidden words will all have something in common.

1. Dog walker's need
   Famous Nabisco cookies
2. Snapshot
   Word on a doormat
3. Its capital is Des Moines
   Thank you ___ much
4. Bad feeling you might get on a rocking boat
   Easily fooled into believing something

Campout word search

Can you find all these words associated with camping in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

BATTERIES
BEAR-PROOF
BUG BITE
CAMPSITE
CANOE
CAR TRIP
COMPASS
COOLER
FANS
FIRE
FISHING
FLASHLIGHT
FOREST
FUEL
GEAR
GHOST STORY
GNATS
GORP
GREAT OUTDOORS
HIKING BOOTS
HOOT
LANTERN
PARK
POND
RIVER
SHORTS
SLEEPING BAG
S'MORES
SOGGY
STARS
TARP
TENT PEGS
TRAILS
TWIGS
VIEW
WILDLIFE

					R													B						
					E	A	N									E	F	E						
					F	T	E	N	T	P	E	G	S	D	X	A	U	A						
				T	I	R	Y	G	E	A	N	R	L	A	N	T	E	R	N					
				F	L	A	S	H	L	I	G	H	T	S	T	O	L	P	P					
				H	D	I	E	O	H	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	P	R	R	B				
			E	E	L	L	S	S	C	O	C	I	P	R	E	L	O	O	C	A				
			T	E	I	S	I	T	T	A	H	I	K	I	N	G	B	O	O	T	S			
			I	S	W	F	F	S	R	E	O	R	R	S	S	U		F	M	T	M			
		O	S	R	O	O	D	T	U	O	T	A	E	R	G	R		E	O	E	O	E		
		S	P	T	W	G	R	O	I	N	H	L	V	B	I				L	R	R	T		
	U	A	M	R	A	I	G	R	N	A	O	S	I	N	W				V	I	E	W	E	
	R	T	A	R	P	N	H	Y	U	C	N	T	R	D	T				F	E	S	S	R	
K	E	D	C	G	A	B	G	N	I	P	E	E	L	S						S	R	A	T	S

Spot the difference

These two pictures of ice cream cones appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

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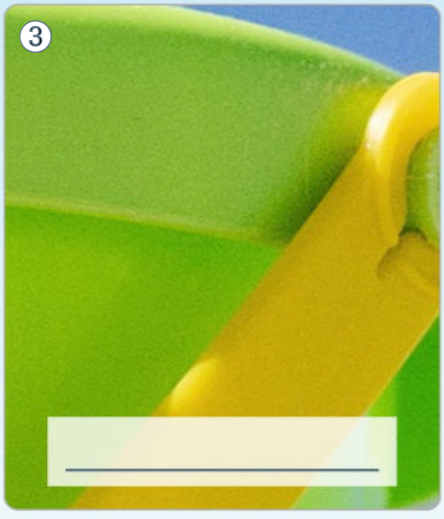
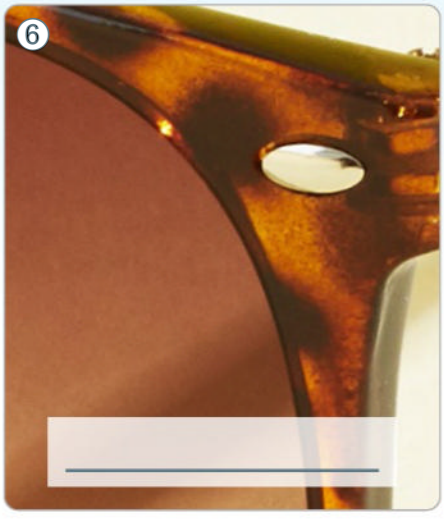
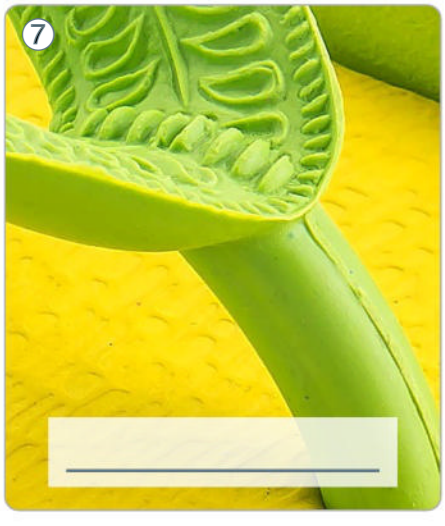
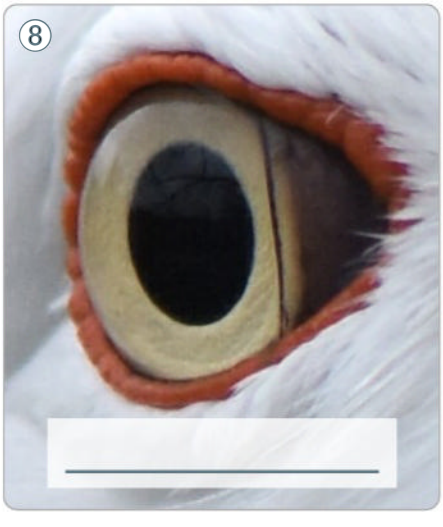
Up close

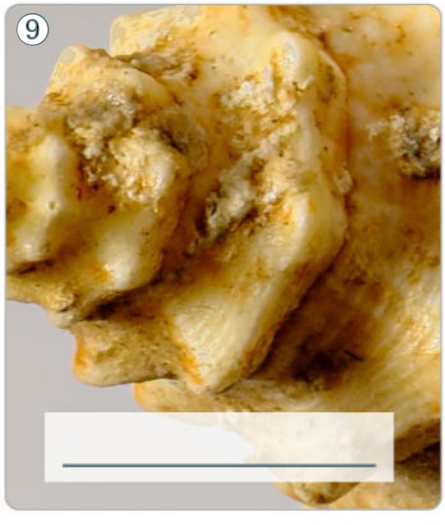
Each of these photos is an extreme close-up of something summery. Can you identify each one?







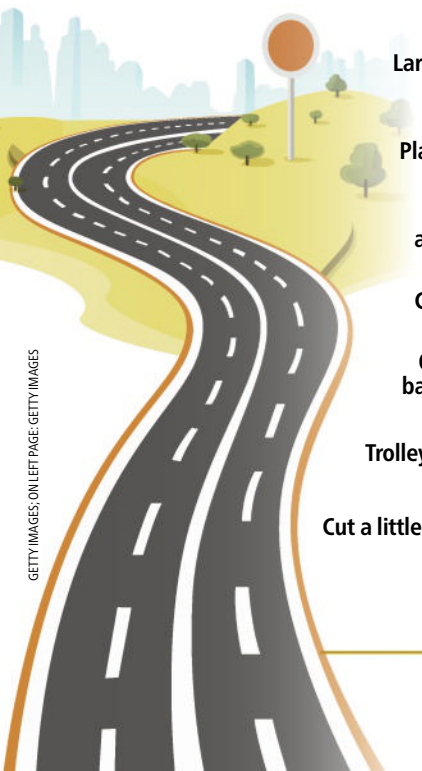




Summer travel word ladder

To change the word ROAD into the word TRIP, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. Two shaded answer words don't have clues. Use the answers before and after those words to find words that can fit in those boxes to continue the chain. The correct pair of words will reveal a common road trip souvenir. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.

	R O A D
Amphibian that is similar to a frog ▶	
Said what happened ▶	
Like the water in an unheated pool ▶	
Wire with a plug at one end ▶	
Dictionary entry ▶	
Had on ▶	
Tiny skin opening ▶	
Get ready to be photographed ▶	
[NO CLUE]	
The amount needed for a purchase ▶	
A play's players ▶	
It's wheeled into a supermarket ▶	
Difficult ▶	
Large collection of cattle ▶	
Place for a face ▶	
Listen attentively to ▶	
Cause a rip in ▶	
One side of a baseball game ▶	
Trolley or streetcar ▶	
Cut a little off the edge ▶	
	T R I P



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Find the match

Can you tell which two of these pictures are the same?

CROSS-FIT

Complete this mini crossword so that three words read across the boxes and three different words read down. Clues are given for all six words but in random order. Use the letters that are given to help you get started.

- Big ___ (bell in a London tower)
- Cube in a glass of water
- Fast music style with many words
- Skeleton part that protects the lungs
- Top card in a deck
- Writing instrument

	I	
P		

Donkeys find their sole mates

Rescued donkeys in the UK are wearing some sporty leg gear. To protect the animals from insect bites and help wounds heal, staff at the Redwings Horse Sanctuary used to cut socks to fit over the donkeys' legs. At the end of the soccer season, Arsenal Football Club donated 40 unused socks from its team closet. Now their footless athletic socks keep the donkeys safe in style. Staff can even hide treats in the socks as an enrichment activity for the animals. A sanctuary employee said it was "one of the most unusual donations we've ever had."

Toy car takes to the road

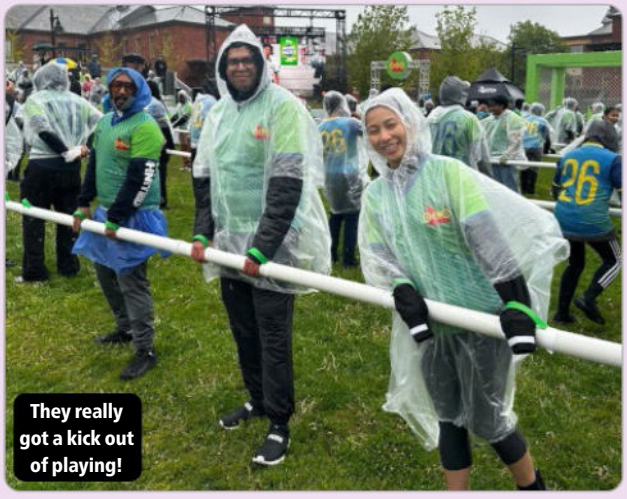
As the cost of gas has soared around the world, one man in Georgia has come up with a clever solution—driving a car that's just 4 feet tall. Mali Hightower found a toy Barbie car in someone's trash and fitted it with an engine from a power washer. He added lights, music, a horn, and a rack to store his groceries, so it's perfect for driving to the local supermarket. A tank of gas for the tiny vehicle costs about $3 and lasts up to 40 miles. With fuel prices being so high, Hightower said, "I got to do what I can."

A comfy bed between bread

Festival-goers can nap inside a giant sandwich, thanks to a giveaway from the Subway sandwich shop. The company created a sleeping bag shaped like a bread loaf and filled with fabric "toppings" like cheese, tomato, lettuce, and salami. The "sleeping bag-uette" was designed to help young people get more sleep at music festivals, after research found that many would even miss a headline act to get enough rest. The bag-uette is nearly 10 feet long, however, so they might have trouble squeezing it into a small festival tent.

Bears get a cool surprise

It may be summer in Southern California, but that didn't stop two bears at the San Diego Zoo from enjoying a snow day. The brown bear brothers, named Scout and Montana, were rescued from an area near Yellowstone National Park in 2007. To mimic the conditions they would typically experience in the high mountains at this time of year, zoo staff recently used special snowblowers to fill their enclosure with human-made snow. Scout and Montana had a bear-y good time digging through piles of powder, wrestling, rolling around, and exploring their wintry wonderland.


They really got a kick out of playing!

A goofy game of foosball

The largest-ever game of human foosball was played by soccer fans in Ontario, Canada. Foosball is a tabletop version of soccer that uses spinning rods with handles to control figures of players. To re-create it on a large scale, 254 people lined up on a field, holding horizontal poles and attempting to kick a ball into a giant goal. Although it rained during the game, the players were all smiles as they worked together to score points. A Guinness World Records official said "everyone brought their exuberance" to the field.

He'd sing, too, but he's a little horse.

Piano players on four legs

Musical miniature horses are bringing comfort and joy to people in California hospitals. A nonprofit group called Mini Therapy Horses has trained nine well-behaved animals to high-five people, kick a ball, or offer a hug, but the horses' greatest claim to fame is playing a piano keyboard with their noses. They play tunes to cheer up patients after surgery and during difficult experiences. "It's pretty hard not to have a smile and feel joy when you see a little tiny horse—a beautiful little horse—playing a keyboard," said owner Victoria Nodiff-Netanel.

Erupting with flavor

Cooking pizza with lava

Mario David Garcia Mansilla doesn't need wood, gas, or electricity to cook pizzas to perfection—he has an active volcano. The chef, whose business in Guatemala is known as Pizza Pacaya, got the idea to put metal ovens directly on the slopes of the Pacaya volcano after seeing hikers roast marshmallows over its hot lava rock. Enough heat rises from the solid lava to bake Mansilla's pies and give them a smoky, earthy taste. People trek from far and wide for a slice, taking in some spectacular landscape views as they wait 10 to 14 minutes for each pizza to cook.

From old dock to catwalk?

Shipwreck turned into fashion

One person's trash became another person's treasure when a group of researchers designed a dress from the remains of a shipwreck. The team shredded chunks of wood from the ship, which sank in 1684, and turned these fibers into yarn. Then they used the yarn to knit a long, sleeveless dress. They decided not to dye the fabric, keeping the natural brown color of the 300-year-old wood. Researcher Minna Koivikko said the dress brings underwater history "into people's everyday environments." Is this a true story, or have we fashioned a false tale?*

*Real! Experts at Aalto University in Finland created the dress to highlight the value of reusing materials for sustainability. "If something this beautiful can be made from centuries-old wood," said a researcher, "why do we keep throwing away materials?"

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS; GETTY IMAGES; PIZZAPACAYADEDAVID/INSTAGRAM; MINI THERAPY HORSES; ESA KAPILA/AALTO UNIVERSITY (2); NORTHERN OSTROBOTHNIA MUSEUM; ON LEFT PAGE: REDWINGS HORSE SANCTUARY; HYOSUB SHIN/AJC; BEN STEVENS; SAN DIEGO ZOO

Your turn

Editor's note

In the US, June is considered "Supreme Court season." That's when the nine justices who sit on the nation's highest court issue rulings on cases they have heard since the start of their term in October. Often, the decisions that are released last are the ones that have been anticipated the most. That's what happened this year (p4). On June 30, the final day of the court's term, the justices ruled on a closely watched case about birthright citizenship. This term refers to the principle, rooted in the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution, that most children born in the US are automatically citizens of this country. The justices voted 6–3 to uphold this idea. We hope our story helps you understand the decision, as well as other rulings, and determine where you stand. After producing this issue with bonus recipes and puzzles to add extra fun to your summer (p24–33), our team will be taking a one-week break. We'll be back after that to bring you Issue 327.

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

Nora, 10, Massachusetts

Starting a club for a cause

"I started a club called STE, which stands for Save the Earth. In the club, my friends and I plant plants, clean up litter, and more. I love it because it's fun and I'm doing my part to help the environment. We raise money throughout the year, and at the end we take a big trip to a plant shop and buy lots of native plants with the money we raised. By forming the club, I have inspired my little sister to do something similar. Starting a club where you live could really make a difference."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What invention lets you see right through walls?
A window

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Clean Air Task Force

The group was founded in 1996 to address climate change and air pollution around the world. Its scientists, lawyers, and other experts advocate for policies that will lead to the creation of clean technology that is environmentally sustainable. The group is working to create zero-emission trucks in the US and to develop policies that will improve transportation in hundreds of European cities. Find out more at catf.us.

We published a book!

The Week Junior has created its first-ever bookazine (a combination of a book and a magazine). The title is *All About America*, and it celebrates this year's 250th anniversary of our nation's founding in 1776. The 100-page book is packed with fascinating facts about the amazing people, ideas, events, and landmarks that make our country special. Think of it as a road map of the American spirit! To find out more about it, have an adult go with you to magazineshop.us/theweekjunior. *All About America* is also available at bookstores and grocery stores throughout the country.

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Puzzle and quiz answers

SUMMERTIME STUMPERS! (pages 28–33)

Amusement park crisscross

Riddle answer: THEY LIKE TAKING TURNS

P	E	R	F	O	R	M	E	R	S		S		C	A	N	D	Y	A	P	P	L	E
	E										P		H					R				
	C		R		M				C	A	R	O	U	S	E	L		L	I	N	E	S
M	O	N	O	R	A	I	L		B		I		R		O			Z			T	
	S		I		N		S	O	U	V	E	N	I	R	S		C		E		A	
W	A	T	E	R	S	L	I	D	E		M		K		O		K	W			G	
	U		W		M		A		P		L		S	K	E	E	B	A	L	L	E	
F		M		H		U		T	H	E	A	T	E	R			R		I			
I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M		S		R		R		P	L	U	S	H	T	O	Y
R		S		E		H			C						I		T				N	
E		R	O	L	L	E	R	C	O	A	S	T	E	R		G	R	A	V	I	T	Y
W		I				I			R						H			M			F	
O		D		E		G	I	F	T	S	H	O	P		T	I	C	K	E	T	S	O
R		E		X		H			R						S		R			H		R
K		T	S	H	I	R	T		A							R	E	S	T	R	O	O	M
S				T		A	D	M	I	S	S	I	O	N			W			W		S	

Animal crossings

C	U	B				K												F				
	①	E				②	I						③	J				④	R			
		A			C	A	T		K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O			O			
		R					T									E			G			
							E									Y						
							N															

Up close

1 popsicle
2 lifeguard's whistle
3 sand pail
4 beach ball
5 sandcastle
6 sunglasses
7 flip-flop
8 seagull's eye
9 conch shell

Cross-fit

R	I	B
A	C	E
P	E	N

Hot spots

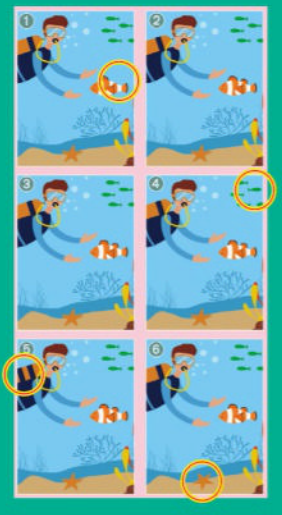
1	dog
2	pink
3	fudge
4	pepper
5	stuff
6	potato

Details, details

Spot the difference

Find the match

Numbers 2 and 3 are the same.



Overlaps

The hidden answers are all things at the beach:

1 shore (leaSH/OREos)
2 towel (phoTO/WELcome)
3 wave (loWA/VEry)
4 seagull (nauSEA/GULLible)

Four corners

	3		4		
2					5
		2	2		
6					
				6	
	2	1			3

Juggling act

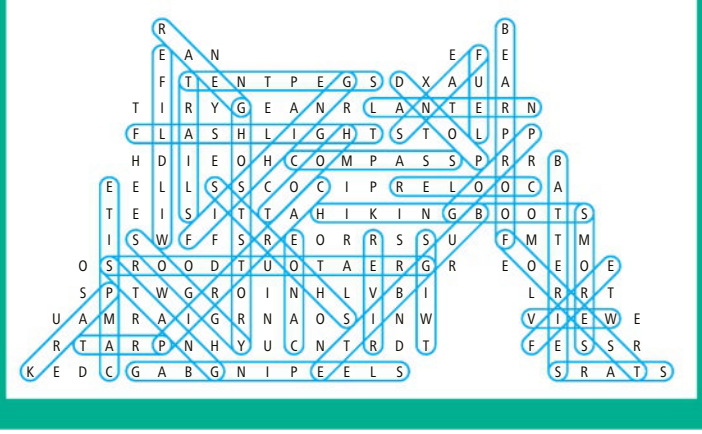
clog
golf
long
logo
goal
glow

Summer travel word ladder

ROAD
TOAD
TOLD
COLD
CORD
WORD
WORE
PORE
POSE
POST
COST
CAST
CART
CARD
HARD
HERD
HEAD
HEAR
TEAR
TEAM
TRAM
TRIM
TRIP

Campout word search

Unused letters: Next year, the recipe for s'mores will turn one hundred.



Color chaos

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QUIZ (from page 38)

1 b) Maui **2** True **3** a) California **4** Liver **5** c) Seattle Seahawks **6** False. They are set in the late 1800s. **7** Debug **8** a) AJ Dybantsa **9** b) 1926 **10** False. They turn orange. **11** The Myers House **12** c) $10,000 **13** True **14** The Battle of Little Bighorn **15** b) Foosball

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 In the movie *Moana*, the main character teams up with which mythological figure?
a) Laka b) Maui c) Pele
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Cape Verde is the smallest country ever to reach the knockout stage of the World Cup.
True ☐ False ☐

3 Which US state became the first to ban wording such as "sell by" on food date labels?
a) California b) New York c) Texas
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 In a recent study, which body part of a homing pigeon was found to play a key role in the bird's sense of direction?

5 Retired football player Russell Wilson led which NFL team to Super Bowl appearances in 2014 and 2015?
a) Denver Broncos b) Pittsburgh Steelers
c) Seattle Seahawks
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* books are set in the late 1700s.
True ☐ False ☐

7 What is the name of Google's program to reduce the population of mosquitoes?

8 Which basketball player was selected as the first overall pick in the NBA Draft?
a) AJ Dybantsa b) Cameron Boozer
c) Darryn Peterson
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

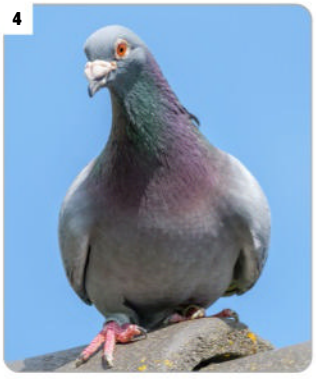
1

9

10

2

4



9 In what year was the Route 66 roadway established?
a) 1911
b) 1926
c) 1938
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? The tails of some East Japan tree frog tadpoles turn green after they are exposed to predators.
True ☐ False ☐

11 In the book *Ghost in the Night*, what building does Harmony plan to investigate?

12 In a new program, how much money will the International Olympic Committee grant to each qualifying athlete?
a) $100 b) $1,000
c) $10,000
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? The dinosaur species Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis is thought to be the largest found in Southeast Asia.
True ☐ False ☐

14 Native Americans recently gathered in Montana for the 150th anniversary of what battle?

15 Sports fans in Ontario set a world record for the largest human version of what tabletop game?
a) Air hockey
b) Foosball
c) Ping-pong
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

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Keep kids reading all summer long!

The Week Junior invites our readers to jump into a summer of super adventures through our Summer of Reading challenge.

Reading can take kids anywhere they can think of. They can be the hero of a thousand stories, this summer and beyond.

Bring along a friend, create a summer book club, or give a gift of *The Week Junior* and treat another child to a summer of reading adventures.

Makes a great gift!

Order a 25 weekly issue subscription of *The Week Junior* and get two free gifts!

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AMAZING AUTOMOBILES
The Cadillac Ranch, a roadside attraction along Route 66 in Texas, features 10 graffiti-covered cars stuck in the ground.

GETTY IMAGES